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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of peace, help us to receive Your peace today and become Your instruments of reconciliation on Earth. Forgive us for the times we have permitted acrimony to deface Your image in humanity. Use our lawmakers to communicate Your peace, bringing hope and healing to our Nation and world. Lord, make our Senators channels of Your grace to transform discord into harmony and conflict into cooperation. Help us to hear the drumbeat of Your direction and march to the cadence of Your guidance.

And Lord, bless the illustrious summer 2016 Senate page class that prepares to leave Capitol Hill. Thank You for the faithfulness of these outstanding young people.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate the House message to

accompany S. 2943, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House insist upon its amendment to the bill (S. 2943) entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

COMPOUND MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to disagree in the amendment of the House, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and appoint the following conferees: Senators MCCAIN, INHOFE, SESSIONS, WICKER, AYOTTE, FISCHER, COTTON, ROUNDS, ERNST, TILLIS, SULLIVAN, LEE, GRAHAM, CRUZ, REED, NELSON, MCCASKILL, MANCHIN, SHAHEEN, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, DONNELLY, HIRONO, KAINE, KING, and HEINRICH.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to disagree in the House amendment, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and the appointing of the following conferees: Senators McCain, Inhofe, Sessions, Wicker, Ayotte, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Lee, Graham, Cruz, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, King, Heinrich.

Mitch McConnell, John McCain, Tom Cotton, Kelly Ayotte, James Lankford,

John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Jeff Sessions, David Perdue, Richard Burr, Dan Sullivan.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 10, H.R. 4465, H.R. 4487, AND H.R. 4901

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are four bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4465) to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4487) to reduce costs of Federal real estate, improve building security, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4901) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is hard to understand why our Democratic friends continue to filibuster the funding needed to fight Zika.

We have already shown the reality behind various claims and half-truths about the compromise anti-Zika conference report: the idea that it would underfund Zika; the idea that it would prohibit funding for or deny access to birth control; the idea that it would actually weaken clean water protections;

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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the idea that its offsets don't have any bipartisan support; the idea that it would cut funding for veterans. We have shown that all of these claims just don't stand up to scrutiny.

Despite all this, Democrats now say they will only accept the Zika bill if it limits health care funding in the territories that need it most, drops critical funding for our veterans, and even restricts the ability to kill mosquitoes. That is apparently their position. My friend the Democratic leader warns that these mosquitoes are "vicious," "awful," and "ravaging." He is just not all that interested in killing them.

So I would like to echo the words of the senior Senator from Texas, who said that our Democratic colleagues seem to be operating in a "logic-free zone" when it comes to Zika. It is time to get back to reality. This is a serious crisis that demands serious solutions. It is time for our friends to start worrying less about pleasing outside political groups and start worrying more about actually helping the Americans who are counting on all of us.

We have a conference report. It is before us. It contains the exact level of funding to fight Zika that Democrats already agreed to—\$1.1 billion. It includes more health care funding than the bill that originally passed the Senate. It does not prohibit funding for or deny access to birth control. It contains bipartisan offsets that move money from lower priorities to higher priorities. It contains temporary but meaningful reforms that actually allow us to fight mosquitoes in an effective way. It also honors our veterans with record levels of funding.

This compromise conference report offers the only way to get this done now. The only way to achieve the outcome is to pass this conference report now. We could pass it today.

I am urging our colleagues to please look within themselves and make the right decision. Otherwise, what will they say to pregnant mothers this summer? What will they say to our veterans the rest of the summer?

I hope our friends will think about what they will say to our Active-Duty troops as well. As every colleague knows, there are two types of bills necessary to fund our military. First is the Defense authorization bill, which authorizes the many things our military needs. Democrats voted with us to pass that important bill last month. Second is the Defense appropriations bill, which actually funds the things the Defense authorization bill authorizes. That is the bill Democrats have been filibustering since last week. In other words, Democrats are happy to make promises to our men and women in uniform with the Defense authorization bill, but they are not prepared to keep those promises by actually passing the Defense appropriations bill.

Both the current and incoming Democratic leaders essentially just made this point themselves. Here is what the senior Democrat from New York said just yesterday:

[A bill] without actual appropriations . . . is like a Hollywood movie set: Something that appears real on the surface but has no substance and no life behind its false facade.

Here is what my friend the Democratic leader said:

Authorizing legislation is a start, but without resources, it's very, very meaningless.

Very, very meaningless. A false facade. Harsh words from Democrats about their own actions on defense funding.

In an attempt to make a misleading political point about the CARA bill—a point that doesn't hold water, of course—these Democratic leaders inadvertently stepped on their own party's message for opposing the funding bill our military needs. If they really believe what they said to be true, then why are Senate Democrats blocking the Defense appropriations bill when they talk about how important it is to actually provide "real funding"? This is a defense funding bill that the top Democrat on the Defense Subcommittee called "a responsible approach to protecting our country." It is a bill that every single Democrat and every single Republican supported in the Appropriations Committee. It also respects the budget caps in place. It is the epitome of regular order—the epitome of regular order. Senate Democrats may try to spin their actions now, but it all boils down to one thing: This is just a partisan game.

At a time when we face an array of daunting challenges around the globe, it is imperative that the Senate take the next steps today to provide the resources and training our servicemembers need.

The CIA Director recently said he would be surprised if ISIL isn't trying to carry out an attack in the United States like the one we saw recently in Istanbul. And we are continuing to see terrorism hit home in Orlando and San Bernardino and across the world in places like Bangladesh and Baghdad and Saudi Arabia. These factors only underscore the importance of taking up and passing this defense funding bill as soon as possible. They also underscore the importance of our Commander in Chief finally leading a campaign to defeat ISIL, which is the only way to end ISIL-directed and ISIL-inspired terrorism once and for all.

It is clear that preventing future attacks inside our borders requires defeating ISIL where it exists—beyond our borders. Passing this defense funding bill is crucial to achieving that goal, just as it is crucial to fulfilling the commitment that President Obama made last week regarding the 8,400 troops who will remain in Afghanistan through the end of his administration. The President's statement represents another glaring example of why the Senate must pass this Defense appropriations measure. It is what is needed to fund the training to prepare forces for deployment to Afghanistan and the weapons they will carry and the spare

parts and fuel consumed in training and operations and the ammunition they will need to execute their missions. It also includes resources to fund basic pay, deliver necessary medical services, and support quality-of-life programs that military families count on. The President has made a commitment to our allies, and we must meet our commitment to the force.

Our men and women in uniform courageously put themselves in harm's way to help keep our country safe. They do so willingly. They do so voluntarily. They don't ask for much in return, and they never ever forsake their commitment. Senators shouldn't forsake their commitment, either.

Today, our Democratic colleagues will have the opportunity to join us in meeting the first part of that commitment by voting to go to conference on the Defense authorization bill. Then they will have the opportunity to join us in meeting the second part of that commitment by voting to end their filibuster of the defense funding bill so we can pass it.

America's men and women in uniform don't need "false facades" or "very, very meaningless" gestures from our Democratic colleagues. They need Democrats to put politics aside and join us in advancing a strong Defense authorization bill and a strong Defense appropriations bill because our servicemembers and our national security depend on both of these bills.

Despite Senate Democrats' efforts to put partisan politics before pressing issues like national security and Zika, the Republican-led Senate is working hard to advance solutions for the American people.

One newspaper recently declared that the Senate "has settled into a new normal" under Republican leadership, "passing bills at [a] rate not seen in decades." That is good news for the American people, and here is why.

The new normal includes more than 225 bills that have been passed, along with more than 140 bills that have become law, and I am not just talking about bills from Republicans but bills from Democrats as well. For instance, the senior Senator from Delaware who has seen four of his bills become law; for instance, the senior Senator from California who has seen three become law; and, for instance, our Democratic colleagues from Rhode Island and Minnesota who saw the CARA bill they worked on with Republican Senators like Senator PORTMAN, Senator AYOTTE, and Senator GRASSLEY pass yesterday.

CARA is a comprehensive legislative response to the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic that is ravaging our country. Legislation to address this epidemic languished under a previous Judiciary chairman, but Senator GRASSLEY worked to change that. He made it a priority, and he moved it swiftly. CARA wouldn't have been possible without him, just as it wouldn't have been possible without Members

like PORTMAN and AYOTTE, who have worked to drive this bill forward every step of the way. I would also like to thank Senator ALEXANDER for his work in the conference committee to secure a strong final bill. The bill we passed will help protect Americans from addiction and overdose, and we expect the President to sign it into law soon.

Here is another important bill we passed yesterday and also expect the President to sign into law soon. It is the most comprehensive aviation security reform legislation in a decade, and it contains significant consumer protections for airline passengers as well. This important bill will help protect Americans at our airports and in our skies, and it would not have been possible without the good work of Senator THUNE, who worked with Senator NELSON to guide it through to passage.

In just the past week or so, we saw the crisis in Puerto Rico, and we responded with responsible legislation designed to prevent a taxpayer bailout and at the same time help the Puerto Rican people.

We saw the threat of rising food prices for middle-class families, and we responded with science-based legislation designed to prevent confusing and costly laws in one State from raising grocery bills in another.

While Senate Democrats are now trying to make it impossible to get the basic work of government accomplished with some filibuster summer sequel, we have been able to make progress there too. The full Appropriations Committee has approved all 12 funding bills—at a record early time and with broad bipartisan support—many of them with unanimous backing from both sides. The full Senate has passed some on the floor, and if our Democratic friends would work with us, we could pass the others as well.

The Republican-led Senate set out to give these appropriations bills ample amount of floor time for Senators to debate the measures so more of the American people could be represented in the lawmaking process, and that is what we have done.

The Republican-led Senate set out to give colleagues from both sides more of a voice, allowing amendments and bills from both sides because better process leads to better results for the American people, and that is what we have done. We did so because this Republican majority is following through on what we set out to do from the beginning: open up the legislative process, get committees up and running again, empower Members from both sides, find areas of common ground, and advance legislation that can make a difference for people all across our country.

Just because Democrats are again reverting to their dysfunctional ways because they believe it suits them politically, it doesn't change the reality that we have made significant progress in restoring the Senate to significantly better health.

We have clearly put the Senate back to work too. There are so many other

measures we have passed besides those I have mentioned already: ground-breaking reforms in education and in transportation, permanent tax relief for families and small businesses, trading more of Washington's annual patches and punts for real solutions. All of these good ideas and so many more are now law, which benefit the people we represent.

We have gotten so much done already, but there is much more we can do, as long as our Democratic colleagues aren't determined to obstruct for its own sake. I think many on the other side have much to ponder over this upcoming State work period. Think about Zika, my Democratic colleagues. Think about veterans over the summer. Think about our men and women in uniform. Then they will have to decide, do they want to continue with these partisan games on critical issues like Zika and National Defense or do they want to work with us to keep making progress for our country.

We will certainly give them more opportunities to make progress on appropriations. We will certainly give them opportunities to make progress on important issues like Energy and Defense. Even if Democratic leaders might prefer dysfunction and partisan games, Members from both sides know the Republican-led Senate has given them more of an opportunity to move legislation and their constituents more of a voice.

Let me say that again. This Republican-led Senate has given all Senators more of an opportunity to move legislation; thereby, giving their constituents more of a voice.

With continued hard work and cooperation from our friends across the aisle, we can continue to add to that record of achievement for the people, the American people all across our country. After all, isn't that what they sent us here for?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I assume my Republican friend feels that if you say just the opposite of what is valid and true, some people will believe it. You talk about a logic-free zone, as my friend mentioned—boy, we got one in the last half hour here. We do have a new normal here, and it is not a good new normal. Take, for example, defense. The Republican leader resorts to name-calling, trying to paint Democrats as weak on defense. He cites Democrats voting against proceeding to the Defense appropriations bill before we have a budget deal.

Let me remind the American people, let me remind the Republican leader, the result of Democrats blocking the Defense appropriations bill three times last year was we got a better budget, a much better budget. We got a budget agreement that increased spending for national security by \$33.5 billion over the sequester. It was their sequester

level; that is, they wanted to cut it even more. That is the truth.

The further truth is that the defense of our country, the security of our country, depends more on the Pentagon. We have every Democrat who is just as patriotic as any Republican. We believe in the security of this Nation just as much as they do. We look at that differently, though, in this sense: I repeat, the security of this Nation is more than bombs and bullets. It is also making sure we have an FBI that works and is adequately funded. It also means the Drug Enforcement Administration has the personnel to do their job. It also means the Department of Homeland Security, created by a Republican President, is up and running and able to do its job. They have tremendous responsibilities. The border security is their problem. They have to deal with that, and it has to be adequately funded.

We have issues that relate to the security of this Nation. For example, the Centers for Disease Control has to be adequately funded. They don't do bombs or bullets, but they do take care of this Nation's security.

The National Institutes of Health, one of the premier organizations in the history of the world, helps us become a more secure nation. So we are going to continue—we will block today, if he brings it up again, the Defense appropriations bill. Why? Because he wants to do that. It is so obvious. He wants to do that and walk out of here and leave the other appropriations bills stirring in the breeze and meet the craziness we see out of the House of Representatives as it relates to spending.

We want more resources for our troops, but if we get more resources for our troops, we are going to get more resources for those entities that keep us safe and secure that aren't Pentagon-related.

Again, I assume my friend believes that if you keep talking about something that is absolutely untrue, people will think it is true. For example, let's take the Zika situation we have in America today. No one disputes the fact that these mosquitoes are ravaging and are horrendous. Mosquitoes have been very difficult and dangerous. They have been terrible since recorded history. They cause death and illness. It is hard to comprehend. For the first time in the history of the world, we have now the mosquito spreading a virus that causes women to have deformed babies—badly deformed babies.

What we did, on a bipartisan basis, the senior Senator from Washington and the senior Senator from Missouri got together and they came up with a Zika funding measure. I felt it was inadequate dollarwise. We agreed with the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health that it should be \$1.9 billion. We said: OK. We will go along with this because it is an

emergency. It is like all emergencies, whether it is flood, fire, or wind, whatever it might be. This is an emergency, and it should be treated as such—\$1.1 billion, no offsets. We passed that with 89 votes. Every Democrat voted for it and virtually every Republican voted for it. It went to the House of Representatives.

Now, here is where my friend's logic-free zone really pops in hard. Remember what we sent to the House of Representatives, and here is what they sent back to us. There is no disputing this, even though he can say it a million times if he wants. Under the bill we got back—and the Republicans in the Senate approved what happened in the House—Planned Parenthood, an organization where hundreds and hundreds of thousands of women go for their care, do you think they are going to have a little rush of business now? Because women in America today want to make sure they have the ability to not get pregnant. Why? Because the mosquitoes ravage pregnant women. Under the logic of my friend the Republican leader, they don't need to go to Planned Parenthood. They can go to their boutique doctor someplace in Las Vegas or Chicago or Lexington, KY. They can go to an emergency room and say: I am sorry, I didn't get birth control; will you help me? That isn't what emergency rooms are for. That is what Planned Parenthood is for. The vast majority of women who need help, that is where they go, Planned Parenthood. Under the legislation we got back from the House, there is no money to be provided for that.

We know the Republicans don't like the people who wear the green eyeshades, the so-called environmentalists. So what did they send to us? They had to do something. The only thing they could get out of the House of Representatives—they have to do something to attack the environment so they said: Well, here is what we will do. With spring, we are going to eliminate the Clean Water Act, which makes it extremely dangerous. That is why the EPA looks at this so closely and all other Federal agencies. The Clean Water Act is the law of the land, and it has been for decades. They eliminate that.

The Republican leader gets up here and talks about: I hope they are happy—words to that effect—what they are doing to veterans. The bill we got back as it relates to Zika takes \$500 million from veterans—from the Veterans' Administration. That is what they did. I can't make this stuff up. What was that money to be used for? Processing claims.

The Presiding Officer has been out front on finding a way to speed up veterans' claims. They need to be handled more expeditiously. There was a provision in the original legislation to give them \$500 million to speed it up, but now that money will be put toward the Zika bill. It is gone.

Two years ago a ravaging epidemic swept Africa—Ebola. It was terribly

hurtful to the people of Africa. People in America were afraid. We had nurses and doctors coming here to be treated because we had better facilities than they have in Africa. Well, it is still around, and they are still putting out fires as we speak. The bill we got back from the House took \$107 million from the Ebola funding. Everyone knows that the \$543 million they took from ObamaCare to help fund the Zika matter—I could raise a point of order right now and it would go out. No one disputes that.

As Speaker Boehner said—just to demonstrate how crazy they are over there in the House—they couldn't get something passed there unless they did something to take care of the really, really, really rightwing crazies. What did they do? They struck a prohibition on displaying the Confederate flag. They wanted to be able to fly the Confederate flag at military cemeteries. That is the bill we have which also deals with Zika. How can anyone in good conscience vote for that? We can't, and we are not going to. Of course, it sets up the terrible precedent of offsetting emergency spending.

It is July 14, and the Senate is going to take a short, 7-week break. As we heard the Republican leader say: It has all been done. We have done great things here. He scheduled the Senate for a 7-week summer break—vacation, time off, call it whatever you want. It is the longest Senate recess in more than 60 years. We would like stay and work. I would like to work for the people of Nevada and the rest of the American people, but the Republicans don't want to hear any of this. They want to go listen to Donald Trump. Some of them may not be there because they are kind of embarrassed to be seen with him, but they will watch it on TV.

We will be back in September to tie up loose ends and make sure that the government gets funded, but that is about all we have the ability to do now.

As we get ready to adjourn for 7 weeks, let's look at just a few of the things that are being left behind, such as Zika. The Republicans are choosing vacation rather than protecting pregnant women and their babies from these terrible birth defects that can be prevented.

Have we done anything about guns? No, even though the Republican leader said we would have a vote on guns, we are not going to have a vote on guns. The legislation sponsored by the Republican Senator from Maine, joined by a significant number of Democrats—the Republican leader said we would have a vote on that. Why? Well, we thought it would be a good idea to make it so that suspected terrorists can't go out now and legally purchase a gun or explosives. No, we will not have a vote on that.

What about criminal justice reform? Look at what is going on in the country today. Is there a need for justice reform? Of course there is. We have a bi-

partisan bill that is drowning in the Judiciary Committee. We understand there is only a handful of Republicans who don't support this. Democrats support it. They have refused to address the failings of our criminal justice system despite ample bipartisan support on and off Capitol Hill.

How about the Supreme Court? Republicans still refuse to give Merrick Garland a hearing and vote. Do I need to say more about that? I don't think so.

What about Flint, MI? The whole city was ravaged by lead. Thousands of boys and girls will now never be who they could have been because of lead in their water. There is no relief for them—zero relief. There are 100,000 people who live in that city. They were all adversely affected and poisoned.

What about the opioid epidemic? We passed a bill, which is the first step, but they refused to fund it. They will make due with money they had from before, and now all these additional duties will be given to all of these agencies. We passed the conference report to address opioid addiction, but we don't have the money to do the things we are asking these agencies to do. These are just a few of the things. I guess they are the immediate issues.

What about the other problems the Republicans have ignored for 19 months? How about something for the middle class? How about creating a few jobs? How about building some roads or repairing our very delicate bridges, dams, and our water and sewer systems?

Nothing has been done about the minimum wage, pay equity, student loan debt, job creation—nothing, nothing, nothing. We have crumbling roads and bridges.

What about basic American rights? What has Senator McCONNELL done or said about ensuring justice for the American people? Nothing.

This is the headline from today's Politico: "Mitch McConnell's historic judge blockade." I didn't write the headline. I will read a couple of paragraphs.

Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland may be the most prominent casualty of the GOP-controlled Senate's election-year resistance on the Federal judiciary—but the pace of overall judicial confirmations under Mitch McConnell is on track to become the slowest in more than 60 years. Under the McConnell-led Senate, just 20 district and circuit court judges have been confirmed at a time when vacancies are hampering the Federal bench nationwide.

This is nothing to be proud of.

The Republican leader instituted a blockade of judicial nominations. He did it last year. Last year they made history by confirming the fewest judges since the 1950s, but they will do even less this year. Because of their obstruction, judicial emergencies—those courts with more cases than judges can handle—have more than doubled. That means that Americans seeking justice are being denied their constitutional rights. Here is the issue. I have been

there. I spent a lot of time in courts. That is what I did. I was a trial lawyer. I can remember going to both the State and Federal courts, and they said: Sorry, but we are going to do criminal cases for the next few months and not do anything with civil cases. Civil cases are just as important as criminal cases, but because of what the Republicans have done, judges will be forced—because of the law—to take care of the criminal cases and put the civil cases in the back of the bus.

What about voting rights? Senate Republicans have done absolutely nothing—zero—to protect Americans' right to vote. Time and again this Republican Senate has proven itself to be a colossal failure. Yet Senator MCCONNELL has had the nerve to pat himself on the back every day for all he and the Republicans have done in this Congress.

The bipartisan bills that have passed this Congress were blocked by Republicans in past Congresses. That is a fact. I, as the leader here, had to file cloture more than 500 times because of obstruction and filibusters by the Republicans.

Let's be real honest here. Let's do the logic. These bills passed because Democrats have been a constructive minority. We have worked with the Republicans when they were willing to work with us, but there are too many reasons why this Republican Congress has been a flop. First, Republicans made a calculated decision to appease the most radical fringes of their party. Who do they have? They have Donald Trump.

Second, there has been a serious erosion of trust since the Republicans assumed the majority. Promise after promise to the American people has been shattered and broken. Senator MCCONNELL promised to pass a budget every year. We have no budget.

Senator MCCONNELL promised a full Senate workweek. We have worked one Friday in 19 months.

Senator MCCONNELL promised no show votes. Yet today the Republican leader will force unnecessary revotes on Zika, and I am sure he will force a revote on Defense appropriations. This will be the eighth time in this Congress that the Republican leader has resorted to this tactic. It is his signature move. He is the record holder—it is not a good one—on revotes.

Senator MCCONNELL promised an open amendment process. I can remember him coming out here and saying: REID filled the amendment tree. Well, he must have learned from me because he has gotten really good at it. He has filled the amendment tree 16 times. These are all commitments that the Republican leader made to the American people which have not been honored.

There have also been a number of promises made within the Senate that have been broken. Both sides of the aisle have been left waiting for the Republican leader to keep his word—his

personal word. This troubles me. I have been in this Congress for 34 years. I don't like to talk about this, but I have experienced his not keeping his word firsthand.

I had a meeting right here regarding a woman by the name of Jessica Rosenworcel. She wanted to be renominated to the Federal Communications Commission. That was in December of 2014. Senator MCCONNELL, Senator THUNE, and I had an agreement that I thought was made in good faith. The agreement was simply this: I would agree to do a Republican. We always did them together. We paired them. They said: No, we have to do this. He worked for the Senator from Arizona. He wanted to make sure that they took good care of the Senator who just left the Senate.

The agreement was that we would confirm Michael O'Rielly to the FCC, but in exchange, as soon as the new year came, they would go with Rosenworcel. That was supposed to happen in the next Congress. O'Rielly was a longtime staffer for Senator Kyl and had also worked for Senator CORNYN.

Jessica is a very talented lawyer who worked for Jay Rockefeller.

It was very unusual to do what I agreed to do, but in good faith I accepted the word of two Republican Senators. We traditionally confirm members on bipartisan boards by pairing nominees—one Democrat and one Republican. I agreed to do this out of the goodness, frankly, of my heart. I have never had the experience where someone simply didn't keep their word, and that is what has happened. I wasn't alone. Somebody who works on the Senate floor—and has for years—was there when that conversation took place.

The Republican leader asked me to make an exception, and I did. I agreed with his personal commitment that when the next Congress convened, Republicans would reconfirm Jessica Rosenworcel. I was promised that. I didn't have to agree to this, but I did it because the Republican leader said he would do his part and get Rosenworcel confirmed. Nineteen months have passed, and the Republican leader has yet to keep his word with me.

We had a big, important spending bill last year. It did a lot, but—no one disputes this—the staff of Senator MCCONNELL made a mistake and didn't put language in dealing with section 48 of the renewable tax credits, and everybody acknowledged that it was too bad. He acknowledged the drafting error and that the staff made a mistake. Republicans committed to correct their drafting error in the next revenue bill that the Senate considered. This has been unfulfilled. We could have done it with the FAA bill, but it will not be done there. He told Leader PELOSI: We are going to do that. I promised REID I would do it. Well, it hasn't been done.

It is a sad Senate when people do not keep their word, but maybe they will

address those two issues. A new day will come in September. This is what Democrats and the American people have come to expect from Republicans—promises not kept, commitments not honored, and work not done. "Integrity" is a simple word, but here in the U.S. Capitol, it is everything.

I hope it turns around come this fall. If Republicans will stay and work instead of taking this 2-month break, we can do something to address all these issues, including Zika, Merrick Garland, and guns. But that is as much as we can do if they refuse to do their jobs.

Mr. President, I am sorry that Senator MCCONNELL and I have taken so much time, but we do that once in a while.

I ask that the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Nevada.

VA FUNDING

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise to speak today on an issue that Congress has always been able to rally around with bipartisan support. We don't hear that mentioned a lot recently in these Chambers, but something we have always been able to come together on is our Nation's veterans.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, advocating on behalf of our Nation's and Nevada's brave heroes has been one of my greatest privileges, but it has also been a challenge, especially in recent years. Whether it is timely appointments for health care, eliminating the disability claims backlog, or addressing poor performance, I am constantly fighting for accountability within the VA.

It has taken years of work on the local level in both northern and southern Nevada to get good leadership in our VA regional office and the Reno and Las Vegas VA hospitals; however, all of that work is in vain if Congress does not provide the VA with the robust funding it needs to deliver high-quality care and benefits in a timely manner.

Under Republican leadership in the Senate, we have been trying to return to regular order and the appropriations process. You would think that for an issue as serious as veterans, the Senate would be able to come together to pass the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations act. Yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are continuing to play partisan politics and have rejected this effort.

This important appropriations bill—something we will vote on later this afternoon—includes an increase of funding over the last year, as well as important provisions I have been advocating to help Nevada's veterans. First off, it includes an amendment I filed to ensure completion of the Rural Veterans Burial Initiative so that rural

communities like Elko, NV, have a veterans cemetery that honors our veterans and all of their service.

Second, I secured an amendment to hold the VA accountable for the progress they are making to eliminate the disability claims backlog. As co-chair of the VA Claims Backlog Working Group, I have been fighting to get this backlog to zero.

But I am concerned that the VA isn't feeling the pressure to get that job done. A lot of progress was made, but for 10 months now the VA has been stuck with a 20-percent backlog. I haven't forgotten the commitment the VA made to give veterans a timely answer on their disability claims, which is why my amendment sends a clear message to the VA that Congress is still watching and still expecting results.

It is not just my amendments that are important to this bill. It is the funding that will help those who have sacrificed the most—our veterans and their families. When I sat down with veterans and the military community at roundtables in both northern and southern Nevada just a few months ago, I was struck by how far we really have to go.

Thousands of veterans are suffering from post-traumatic stress and struggling to find the care they need. Post-traumatic stress not only impacts veterans, but it impacts their family members who aren't always sure just how to get the help they need. Some of them fall into homelessness and don't know where to turn and, frankly, they just don't trust the VA. At its worst, we have more than 20 veterans committing suicide every day. Let me repeat that. We have more than 20 veterans committing suicide every day—20 a day.

I had a Nevada veteran's wife tell me how she had to jump through hoops just to get her husband a cardiology appointment through the Choice Act. It took her 3 months—3 months—to get that appointment. She said to me how she would never give up fighting for her husband's health. I continue to see how veterans come to my office for help with getting an appointment or moving their disability claims along.

We cannot expect the VA to solve these problems without funding. So I continue to urge my colleagues to pass the conference report today for VA appropriations so we can fix these problems. While funding can go a long way to providing resources for veterans, we cannot forget that the VA still struggles with accountability.

There are plenty of high-quality VA employees working every day to help our veterans, and many of those employees are in the State of Nevada. These are the ones that cared for my father at the Reno hospital, and I give the VA credit for his health today.

But then there are those employees who are gaming the system and have forgotten that the VA's mission is to serve the interest of veterans and their

families and no one else. Yet the VA can't even fire these people because the Department of Justice says it is "unconstitutional." So think about that. There is nothing more disappointing to me than the Department of Justice preventing these VA employees from being fired or demoted after poor performance. Instead of siding with veterans, the Department of Justice sides with the bureaucrats who don't belong at the VA. I think it is an insult—an insult to veterans and an insult to the American public.

I know that Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman ISAKSON and other committee members share my concern about this, including the Presiding Officer. Rather than ignoring this issue and Congress's intent, it is time for the Department of Justice to step up and step forward to talk to Congress about what can be done to ensure that bad VA employees are quickly removed.

Accountability has to be a priority of the VA. Secretary McDonald understands this, just as funding for the VA should be a priority for the Senate. Again, I call on my colleagues to move the appropriations bill forward so that we can keep our commitment to veterans and we can fix the long list of issues that plague our VA.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

REMEMBERING BILL ARMSTRONG

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, on July 5, the United States lost a great public servant, and Colorado lost one of its fiercest advocates. Bill Armstrong's contributions to Colorado and the country embody the virtues of integrity, devotion, and kindness and reflect his priorities of liberty, faith, and family. His mark on this world will never be forgotten.

Over the course of his life, Senator Bill Armstrong was known for many of his achievements and titles: U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressman, youngest majority leader in the State legislature, and, most recently, being elected president of Colorado Christian University, just to name a few.

But what has been reinforced to me over the last number of days since his passing were not the titles he held or the bills and the amendments he passed through committee or the Senate, but the way in which he carried himself, the respect he gave his staff, his family, and his constituents. He was a thoughtful, peaceful, graceful individual, and he always interacted with those values in mind.

It is the stories about how he treated his staff and how he listened to his constituents that stand out in our minds. Today, as we reflect on the impact he had on this country, it is the stories about the lasting effect his words had on impressionable young minds at Colorado Christian University and the relationships he built with Democrats and Republicans alike, despite the frequent bitter and partisan fights that riddled Congress while he served. He

once described himself as "relatively inflexible on principles, but flexible on the details," never confusing the two when working toward meaningful solutions that required compromise, always listening, ever respectful of those he may have disagreed with.

While I never worked for Senator Armstrong, a number of my closest friends, advisers, and so many of the elected officials in Colorado are a part of the Armstrong legacy and alumni of his great work. The stories they shared with me about their time with Bill Armstrong are incredible.

Sean Conway, a former staffer for Bill Armstrong, now a county commissioner in Colorado, talks about the time that Senator Bill Armstrong went to meet with the refuseniks, as they came to be known—Jewish people living in the Soviet Union who were being persecuted for their views and wanted to leave the Soviet Union for a better life. He went there without contacting his staff, without letting them know how he was or where he was, because he was afraid that the KGB would find out the work that he was doing and the harm that it could cause the people he was meeting with and perhaps even to the staff back home. But he knew he had to bring that message of what was happening with the persecution in the Soviet Union back to his colleagues in the Senate to make sure they understood so they could put an end to the tragedy that was happening in the Soviet Union.

His staff remember Bill Armstrong fondly—a number of whom got married as a result of having met while working for him. One former staff member, Roy Palmer, recounted this: "Bill Armstrong was one of the brightest and most successful persons I've ever met. Yet he didn't have a college degree . . . He spent his life improving his education; reading, studying, debating . . . with a discipline I've never seen before. But he was reluctant to divulge the fact that he didn't have a degree not because he was embarrassed by it, or ashamed about it. Rather he thought it might set a bad example for young people to abandon their education. I think he knew God gave him a special gift of intellect, discipline and drive . . . but he was also extremely aware, compassionate and tolerant of others around him who didn't have the same gift. As he became more successful and older he also became more humble."

And while there are likely hundreds of other stories about how Bill Armstrong embodied true Christian virtues, lived out the words he spoke, and touched people's lives on a very personal level, the work he did in Congress simply cannot go unnoticed. As one former staffer said, "Bill Armstrong should be known as the Father of Tax Indexing." And no doubt, every taxpayer should thank him for his work on tax indexing because without it, many Americans would be forced to go into a higher tax bracket because of inflation. He fought for it because he believed that just because someone got a

well-deserved cost of living adjustment—or COLA—increase they shouldn't have to pay more taxes because of it.

Bill Armstrong was also instrumental in the passage of the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980 that helped preserve 1,400,000 acres of land in Colorado. The lands, which stretch across the entire State, are areas visitors and Coloradans alike enjoy each and every day.

We can all only hope that when we pass on from this life it is first, not the memories others hold of our earthly accomplishments, but what God knows in our hearts to bring us truly home, and then to know we are remembered for the good we have done in this world. Long after our crowning achievements in Congress have faded away from memory, we can all only hope that we are remembered for who we were and the things we did to help lift others up and help them find their purpose in life. As evidenced by the tributes and statements made over the last week since his passing, Bill is known for just that. He lived out the Christian faith he taught. He led hundreds of prayer breakfasts and served on the board of Campus Crusade for Christ and Christian Businessmen's Committee USA. But perhaps more importantly, he was a mentor—as evidenced by the countless stories of students whose lives were changed just because of thoughtful words from Bill Armstrong.

A staff assistant in my office wrote an email to me after his passing describing his “life-changing conversations” with Bill Armstrong—part of which I'd like to read: “The first time I met President Armstrong was before I started attending CCU. I asked to meet with him for five minutes, but true to Armstrong form, he took an hour out of his day to talk about the school and shared why it might be a good fit. After I was convinced and started at CCU, a year later I got to have lunch with him to discuss my interest in economics; he told me to pursue that passion at George Mason for graduate school—his words from that conversation are the reason I'm in D.C. . . . President Armstrong's legacy is bound up in the life he led, walking the walk, adhering to principles and a devotion to serving others.”

Alan Simpson, on the day that Senator Armstrong was giving his farewell speech, said: You have heard the saying that you would rather see a sermon than hear a sermon. Alan Simpson and all of us got to see that every day in Bill Armstrong.

On the day Senator Armstrong came to the Senate floor to say farewell, he was joined by others, including our colleagues and many others. He left the Senate in his farewell speech to colleagues, and from my understanding in conversations with his family, he left this life hearing these words from the Scriptures read by his family, from the last verse of the last book of the Holy

Scriptures: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

As Senator Armstrong walked off the floor of the Senate, he served his fellow man over the last 10 years at Colorado Christian University. He served in the House, in the Senate, and in the Colorado Legislature. He has now walked into a far better place, where we all hope to join him some day.

I yield to my colleague from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is indeed a privilege to be here with my colleague Senator GARDNER as we recognize the life of a dedicated Coloradan, former Senator Bill Armstrong.

Last week, Senator Armstrong passed away after a 5-year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Ellen, daughter Anne, and son Will.

He was an accomplished businessman, a longtime public servant, a dedicated educator, and, most importantly, a husband, father, and grandfather. He held strong principles and beliefs that he conveyed with eloquence and clarity. No one ever could question Senator Armstrong's devotion to Colorado or to his students.

As a young entrepreneur, Senator Armstrong bought his first radio station at the age of 22 and began a long and successful business career. Over the course of his life, he owned or operated more than a dozen businesses, including radio station KEZW in Denver, Ambassador Media Corp, and the Sun newspaper in Colorado Springs. He also served as chairman of Oppenheimer Funds in Denver.

Much of Senator Armstrong's adult life was driven by service, which began when he joined the U.S. Army National Guard, where he served from 1957 to 1963. Following his military service, he began his almost three decades in public service. He was a member of both the Colorado House and Senate and served, as Senator GARDNER said, as Senate majority leader before being elected to Congress in 1972.

After three terms in the House of Representatives, he was elected to the Senate in 1978. Senator Armstrong brought to this Chamber real world experience, which is often in short supply; a business acumen, which is also often in shorter supply; and a deep belief in the potential of those he served in Colorado.

His business background and his knowledge of economic issues earned him spots on the Banking, Budget, and Finance Committees. Throughout his time in the Senate, Senator Armstrong brought important attention to the deficit and budgetary issues. He was a founding member of the Senate Deficit Reduction Caucus. He ultimately chaired the Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, and President Reagan selected him to serve on the National Commission on Social Security Reform. This commission was not like those we see around here these days. It

actually produced meaningful proposals and extended the longevity of the Social Security Program for decades and served as a model of how Congress can work together to tackle difficult and complicated issues.

While Senator Armstrong was deeply conservative, he often found ways to forge bipartisan compromise. His service on the commission was emblematic of this approach, and it is an approach that is sorely lacking in Washington today.

Senator Armstrong was also a strong advocate for our military and the men and women in uniform. He fought to honor those who served in the Korean war and to create a permanent GI bill. He recognized the importance of providing access to postsecondary education, a passion he continued to pursue long after he left this Chamber.

He pushed increased pay for our servicemembers, especially to ensure that military families had sufficient economic support. In an opinion piece in the New York Times, he wrote: “With the G.I. Bill to boost recruiting and pay increases to ease the retention problem, the all voluntary military forces can be preserved and we can end the disgraceful treatment of Americans in military uniform.” His impassioned advocacy led the Army Times to call Armstrong “the military pay champion” of the Senate.

As a Western State Senator, he, of course, worked on wilderness and conservation issues that are so important to our State, including the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980. Because of his integrity and work ethic, his colleagues asked him to serve as chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee for 6 years.

President Reagan once referred to Senator Armstrong as “one of the strongest voices in the United States Senate.”

President Bush called him “one of the finest men . . . in Washington” and “one of the best and brightest.” The best testimonials to Senator Armstrong came from his own colleagues in the Senate:

Former Senator Dole described him as having “been widely recognized as one of the most gifted and persuasive speakers.”

Senator HATCH said “Senator Armstrong has been one of the most eloquent advocates in the Senate for his point of view.”

Senator COCHRAN said: “I do not know of anyone in this body who is more respected for his integrity and ability than is Bill Armstrong.”

Finally, former Senator Wirth, my predecessor and his fellow Senator from Colorado, said the following:

I do not think any individual has expressed his own views more articulately than has Bill Armstrong, nor has anybody pursued them more passionately than he has.

I have enormous respect for that passion, Mr. President. It is precisely that sense of indignation that sometimes Bill Armstrong shows on various issues. It is the kind of indignation that drives this institution, and should.

That is quoting Tim Wirth.

Like many of his predecessors and successors from Western States, the pace and discourse of the Senate was often confounding and frustrating, but he believed it to be “the greatest legislative body in the world.” He appreciated the role the institution plays in our country and felt it was an honor to serve here. But, more than just the institution, he loved his fellow Members. He loved the people of the Senate. He called them a family, brought together by “shared experiences and ideals and great love of our country and aspirations for the future.”

His respect and appreciation for the Senate, for the work we do here, and for the people here showed in his approach to the job. As Senator Wilson noted, “in his zeal as an advocate he has been respectful of those who oppose him.” More than that, he was, Senator Wilson believed, “generous in terms of his own personal conduct, even in heated debate.”

The Durango Herald called Senator Armstrong “civil and patient in interacting with fellow members of Congress,” and the Denver Post recognized Senator Armstrong’s “statesmanship.” These are words and descriptions we don’t often hear around this Chamber much anymore.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have these editorials printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the DenverPost.com, July 7, 2016]

BILL ARMSTRONG’S CONSERVATISM ALLOWED
ROOM FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

(By the Denver Post Editorial Board)

Bill Armstrong was a man of strong convictions. No one who knew the former U.S. senator, who died this week at 79, would quarrel with that statement, or with the fact that his beliefs were both deeply conservative and religious.

And yet Armstrong’s most memorable accomplishment during his 12 years in the Senate was almost certainly his service in 1983 on the National Commission on Social Security Reform, which recommended a bipartisan package of reforms that Congress would ultimately enact. The deal involved sacrifice on both ends of the political spectrum, including higher payroll taxes, more benefits subject to taxation, a hike in the retirement age, and a delay in the cost-of-living adjustment.

The settlement didn’t fully resolve Social Security’s long-term funding woes, but it was a milestone compromise nevertheless. And it remains instructive, since a similar deal is unthinkable, unfortunately, in today’s political environment.

In today’s Washington, a firebrand conservative as dedicated to small government and low taxes as Armstrong was would surely spurn such a commission as unworthy of his time—if not an insult to his principles. But not only did Armstrong participate, he became the panel’s conservative conscience in terms of insisting that any entitlement fix not rely solely on additional payroll taxes. And his efforts paid off in extracting concessions from Democrats even as he reluctantly accepted more taxes.

Such statesmanship on major issues is sorely lacking in today’s Congress—and yet

the need to address entitlements’ mounting long-term liabilities, as well as complex issues like immigration, has seldom been greater. Fortunately, such stalemate is nowhere ordained as inevitable. Armstrong’s example on the 1983 commission provides reason for hope even in today’s divisive political culture.

This newspaper did not always share the former senator’s political agenda—his vocal opposition to gay rights, for example, was especially regrettable. But even those who disagreed with him on major issues had to admire the eloquence and civility with which he often framed his case. And meanwhile, his signature concerns about the impact of spending and taxes on average Americans led to significant achievements, such as the indexing of the income tax—a reform that loomed much larger when the memory of the 1970s’ high inflation was still fresh.

Armstrong left the Senate on his own terms while still in his 50s, an age when many career politicians are just hitting their stride. And he would go on, years later, to put his stamp on Colorado Christian University, spearheading ambitious redevelopment plans to expand and update the campus with state-of-the-art educational facilities. That he would contemplate such a grand goal in his 70s surprised no one who knew him well. Colorado has lost a giant in its political and civic life.

[From DurangoHerald.com, July 10, 2016]

FORMER U.S. SEN. BILL ARMSTRONG
REMEMBERED FOR APPROACHABILITY, CIVILITY

At a time when everyone is speculating as to how Congress became so dysfunctional, with both parties refusing to communicate and to compromise on almost every issue, we can remember political figures in years past when that was not the case. Bill Armstrong, who served two terms in the U.S. Senate beginning in 1978 and who maintained deep fiscal and social principles, was someone who was civil and patient in interacting with fellow members of Congress and his constituents and in advocating for what he believed. We remember Armstrong during his visits to Southwest Colorado as being approachable and a listener.

Armstrong died last week at 79.

Armstrong was unusual in attending but not graduating from college, and he grew up and had his first business successes in Nebraska before moving to Colorado. He was skilled at owning and operating radio stations in that state initially, and then radio and television stations in Colorado.

Nor did Armstrong make a career out of politics. After retiring from the Senate in January 1991, he left Washington, and he eventually became president of Colorado Christian University in Denver.

Armstrong is best known for his fiscal discipline, and on the social front for opposing gay rights initiatives. In the latter, he was out of tune with the country and what was right. He challenged President Ronald Reagan’s proposed 1981 budget as too generous in future years, and succeeding in having it reduced. In 1983 he was a member of a bipartisan entitlement review commission that advocated higher Social Security taxes for individuals and employers, reduced benefits and a higher age eligibility, all in order to put Social Security on stronger financial footing. Two of the three were adopted (the higher age eligibility failed).

Democrats were a part of the commission and needed to pass the legislation, and Armstrong had both the political respect and skills to help bring them on board.

(Thirty-three years later, Social Security still requires more of the same adjustments, and it was Republican plans in that direction

that have played a role in Donald Trump’s rise in popularity.)

Sen. Bill Armstrong’s demeanor and his willingness to join with members of the other party to craft legislation for the country’s benefit is a reminder of what used to take place in Congress. That is something that does not occur today.

Mr. BENNET. Senator Armstrong once described himself as “relatively inflexible on principles” but “flexible on the details.” A former high school debater, he always spoke with passion and knowledge in an attempt to sway people his way. But when it came time to get the job done, he understood how to make a deal.

Senator Armstrong had a fiercely passionate, strongly principled yet pragmatic, respectful, and constructive approach to his work. We could use a lot more of that around here.

Later in life, Senator Armstrong decided to give back to his country and community in a different way—by serving as president of Colorado Christian University. He called his work at the university “the most significant, energizing, and rewarding work I have ever undertaken.” He had a vision for the college and for his students, and he devoted all his energy to their success.

Under his leadership, Colorado Christian University has flourished. Enrollment more than doubled and freshman retention increased. The school has been ranked in the top 2 percent nationally for its core education and was named a “college of distinction.” The university’s endowment has almost doubled. The school has begun substantial redevelopment plans to expand and update the campus. He cared deeply for his students and will be greatly missed by the CCU community.

In fact, I recently asked Senator Armstrong for his input and perspective as part of a task force on higher education. I knew I could count on him to provide thoughtful advice on how to improve our system of higher education. He was glad to assist in our efforts.

Senator Armstrong had a deep respect for democracy and our country’s future. He represented a time when Members of Congress held true to their convictions but knew when to forge compromise for the greater good. His is a legacy that will benefit Americans for generations to come. His example will be missed and cherished by those of us who still serve in the Senate.

There is one last point. None of us is going to be here forever, and we should keep that in mind. I think Senator Armstrong understood that. He was committed to stewardship when he was here in the Senate, and that is an example we should all follow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues for 20 minutes, with the remaining time reserved for Senator MCCAIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mrs. ERNST. Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank my colleagues here today who are joining in this colloquy. We have the junior Senators from Alaska and Montana, and we hoped to be joined by the junior Senator from North Carolina as well.

As I stand here today, my brothers and sisters in arms are deployed overseas. Regardless of what the President tells us, our servicemembers are at war. They are in combat, and their combat boots are on the ground.

I think our colleagues across the aisle have forgotten that as they continue to filibuster our Defense appropriations bill. We have men and women serving overseas. They are serving for us overseas. They also seem to have forgotten that all of those servicemembers are paying attention. I know because I was once one of those servicemembers deployed overseas, paying attention to the actions of the folks here in Washington.

Right now our servicemembers are watching the minority leader, and our enemies are watching just as closely.

This bill appropriates \$515.9 billion for our national security, and \$900 million of this funding is for the National Guard, a critical arm to the security of the United States, where I served for 23-plus years.

My National Guard unit is in the Middle East right now. My Iowa Army National Guard unit, the unit that I commanded as a battalion commander, is serving in the Middle East right now.

The minority leader doesn't care about their safety while they selflessly serve to ensure ours. He doesn't care that this bill has funding for equipment critical to their mission. He doesn't care that their families are depending on them to come home safely, and he doesn't care that his actions once again make America look weak. The minority party is filibustering this bipartisan Defense appropriations bill solely at the expense of our men and women in uniform. Those are the facts on the ground today.

I know the importance of this bill firsthand, and I stand here today ready to vote in favor of it, and I know my colleagues understand that as well.

Once again, I want to thank the Members that are joining us in this colloquy today: the junior Senators from Alaska, Montana, and North Carolina. I know this is a very important issue to all of us.

With that, I would like to turn to the junior Senator from Alaska, who also is a fellow in arms, Lt. Col. DAN SULLIVAN, U.S. Marine Corps, to hear his comments.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Iowa who has distinguished military service and just retired. We are honored that she is leading this colloquy today.

I am honored to be here with some of my colleagues. Our freshman class sees this as a critical issue, and many of us

have been on the floor all week to stress the importance of what Senator ERNST just spoke about—funding our troops and stopping this filibuster that denies our troops funding.

Although we have been out here all week, I am not sure I have seen any of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle coming to the floor to try to explain to the American people why they have filibustered funding for our troops not once, not twice, not three times but four times in the last year. Hopefully, they will not do it again today for the fifth time.

It has been a good week for the Senate. We passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which was bipartisan. Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator AYOTTE led that. We passed the FAA authorization, led by Senator THUNE and Senator NELSON, which will protect the American people in the aviation space.

But we have more important work today on defense issues and on national security issues, and much of it is dealing with supporting our troops. This is not a partisan issue. They need the support.

This past week, the President and Secretary of Defense have made many more commitments with regard to our troops, with 8,400 troops in Afghanistan, 560 additional troops in Iraq, 1,000 additional troops in Poland and a battalion headquarters, and two carrier battle groups in the South China Sea. They are protecting us, they are supporting us, and we should be doing the same. It is that simple.

Along with my colleagues, I find it amazing, remarkable, and, to be quite honest, I find it sad that the minority leader is encouraging a filibuster of the Defense appropriations bill again for the fifth time in a year.

I think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should reject this approach. They are going to have the opportunity in the next hour to come down here and actually vote to fund our troops, and I guarantee that regardless of what State they are from, regardless of what political party they represent, the American people in every State of the United States support funding our troops and dropping this ridiculous filibuster against the men and women in uniform who are out there right now protecting us.

I call on all of my colleagues to do the right thing by our troops and by the American people and to vote today to fund our troops.

All of my colleagues have been very focused on this, but no more so than my colleagues from Iowa, North Carolina, and Montana. All of us have significant military populations and experience.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Montana, Senator DAINES, to further discuss this important issue.

Mr. DAINES. I thank Senator SULLIVAN.

What an honor to stand here today next to two lieutenant colonels—Lieutenant Colonel ERNST and Lieutenant

Colonel SULLIVAN.

Lieutenant Colonel ERNST was the first woman to ever serve in combat and also serve in the U.S. Senate. I am truly grateful for their service.

I thank them also for organizing this colloquy and bringing us together. The leadership they provide as Members who have worn and do wear the uniform of the U.S. military and also serve in the Senate is critical in this most perilous time for our Nation as we face the many threats around the world—and to think that the Senate is going to recess tonight for an extended summer recess and leaving the very important unfinished business of funding the U.S. military and our troops.

Today the Senate Democrats are expected to once again block the consideration of the Defense Appropriations Act of 2017, denying our troops proper funding and support they deserve. What kind of message does that send to the men and women who are today putting their lives at risk to protect our country? What message does that send to them?

As Senator SULLIVAN said, and Senator ERNST, this is not the first time. It is not the second time. It is not the third time. It is not the fourth time. It is the fifth time we will see our friends across the aisle, Senate Democrats, filibuster the funding of our troops. This reminds me of "Goundhog Day."

What is even more frustrating, the Senate Democrats are refusing to even debate the issue. I spent 28 years in the private sector. I will tell you, one way to assure you don't get anything done is to not even discuss it. That seems to be the road the Senate Democrats are taking. It is the low road, not the high road.

They would prefer to once again obstruct what we call regular order in this body, much in the same fashion they did during the past few years, which became the hallmark of a failed Democratic-led Senate majority. While our troops are actively engaged in multiple theaters across the world, and they need the critical support for our growing mission overseas, my friends from across the aisle are actively blocking our troops from being combat-ready.

Let's remember—just remember this: A few short weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed this bill on a solid bipartisan vote, 282 to 138—48 Democrats supported that bill. It passed with strong bipartisan support. Then, over here on the Senate side—I serve on the Appropriations Committee. We passed this bill out of the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 30 to 0—30 to 0. That is called a shut-out, that is called running up the score.

I remember that clearly. Not one Democrat opposed this bill to fund our troops when it passed out of committee. Yet, when it comes to the floor, the Senate minority leader now is instructing the Senate Democrats to filibuster getting the bill even debated

here as well as passed on the Senate floor. What has changed? What has changed? Nothing has changed, except for the fact that our troops are not getting the funding and support they need. Is that what you really want, Mr. Minority Leader?

The passage of this legislation is critical to carrying out the missions in an increasingly dangerous world. I can tell you one thing: Our enemies are not waiting for Senate Democrats to fund our troops and make it a fair fight. This bill pays the salaries of 1.2 million military Active Duty, 800,000 Reservists. The Senate Democrats are saying no to almost 10,000 troops engaged, right now as we speak, in combat in Afghanistan, an additional 5,000 troops in harm's way in Iraq, and many more throughout the globe.

I come from Montana. We have one of the highest per capita vet populations in the United States. I am proud of the Malmstrom Air Force Base. We have one-third of our Nation's ICBMs ready at any moment here to defend our freedom. They silently sit across the plains of Montana. Senate Democrats are failing them. It is unacceptable.

As the Senate heads home for the work period, I challenge my Democratic colleagues to go back home and look at those veterans and those Active-Duty troops in the eyes and ask: Did I serve these selfless men and woman or did I let the minority leader of the Democrats play cheap party politics with funding their pay? The minority leader's constituents in Nevada deserve more, Montanans deserve more, and the American people deserve more.

I want to now recognize the junior Senator from North Carolina THOM TILLIS, who has an amazing group of Active military and veterans there in North Carolina. I am proud to stand here with Senator TILLIS. I look forward to what Senator TILLIS has to say.

Mr. TILLIS. I thank Senator DAINES for all the work he does in supporting our troops, and Lieutenant Colonels SULLIVAN and ERNST, I thank them for their service to the Nation—their continued service. I thank Senator SULLIVAN for continuing to pound on this. It is important.

Yesterday, or earlier this week, I talked about how this is approaching personal with me. I am going to try and not get as loud as I got a couple of days ago, but I want to talk about what this means. I want to talk about the process, an appropriations process where all 30 members of the Appropriations Committee, including 14 Democrats, voted for this bill.

What we are trying to do now is have the broader membership vote for it and send it out of the Chamber. All Democrats—and I would not be surprised, if you went on their social media presences or if you took a look at press releases, that they rightfully announced to their constituents how they voted to support a bipartisan appropriations bill coming out of committee.

Now, I want them to follow up with a press statement that says HARRY REID tells me I have to vote no now. I have to say no to troops. I am not going to support providing critical funding for training and readiness and overseas contingency operations. I don't know about you all—in the Gallery or people watching on C-SPAN—I don't feel particularly comfortable with the situation around the globe. I don't like what Russia is doing.

So we have to put resources in portions of Europe to make sure we can counter the potential threat there. I don't like what China is doing in the South China Sea. So we are having to pay more attention to that and have resources looking at it to protect that region. I generally don't like what Iran is doing. I mean, they have welched on commitments they made in the Iran nuclear deal. They are funding Hezbollah and Hamas and the Iran terror network across the world, including this hemisphere. I don't like what is going on in Syria. I think Iraq has problems, much of it created as a result of the President's withdrawal. Well, good news. He recognizes that maybe we need to increase our presence there. How are we going to pay for those extra 564 soldiers that are going to secure the airstrip that was won over by the Iraqi forces? Where does it come from?

That is a commitment he has made so it is going to come from somewhere else. It is certainly not going to come from the increased funding we are trying to get through this appropriations bill. I don't know about you all, but I believe the generals and the intelligence community that come before our committee and say we are in some of the most dangerous times in their lives. The threats are everywhere. America has to lead because when America doesn't lead, the world is a less safe place. America leads. The tip of the spear is our armed services, our presence across the globe to protect the freedom of other nations and to protect our own freedom. Failing to vote for this bill is failing to make sure they are trained, equipped, and capable of defending freedom.

I want to talk about the personal side of things for the folks down at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune and Seymour Johnson and New River and Cherry Point—marines, airmen, people in the 82nd Airborne, the 18th Airborne Corps, and the conversations I bet they are having with their husbands or wives.

When they come home from training and they hear the commanders down at Fort Bragg say: We are just not getting enough repetition in. We are trying to teach these men and women how to jump out of planes in hostile situations with 100 pounds of equipment connected to them and do that safely.

I don't know about many people, but I don't think I would want to do that if I weren't trained and ready and had the muscle memory to make sure I was

going to do that safely. The Global Response Force down at Fort Bragg takes it to another level. They not only have to drop 1,000 or so men and women out of planes, they also have to drop entire cities out of planes: earth movers, weather stations, medical hospitals, all the things you need to provide relief in the event of a disaster or that you need to support a combat operation. We are sapping the resources to be able to do that.

So here is how the discussion, I think, goes with the men or women who go home before they get deployed:

Honey, I am about to be deployed somewhere.

Maybe it is Iraq, maybe it is Afghanistan, some other part of the world.

I am a little bit nervous because I only got about 80 percent of the training I really needed, that the Army or the Air Force or the Marines deem necessary for me to be able to do that job safely and be certain I can complete the mission. I am sorry, Hon, I have sworn to defend this country. So I am going to do it, but I know I am not at the level of training and capability I should be.

Then they say goodbye and that spouse, hopefully, sees that person come home again. So, you know, guys, politics is an interesting thing. Debate is an interesting thing. We have heard the theater on the floor today that has nothing to do with the vote we have before us. We have heard global warming. We have heard all of these other things. What we have not heard is from the Democrats who voted for this precise bill.

Some people lead you to believe it has changed since they voted for it. It has not changed. It is precisely the same bill, but they have a minority leader who says: Don't vote for it. Play my game. Let us then come down here and say: Do your job.

We are doing our job right now. JONI ERNST is doing her job. DAN SULLIVAN is doing his job. STEVE DAINES is doing his job. I am doing my job by saying: You guys went into a committee and you voted for this bill. You went home and told everybody you are supporting our troops. Now you have a minority leader who is telling you: Don't do your job and let's go on the floor and pretend those of us who want to support our troops are not doing our job.

It is disingenuous, at best, and it is dishonest, at worst. My colleagues here, we need to pound this issue. I need to go home and be able to tell the story and say: We support you, Fort Bragg. We support you. We are going to do everything we can to get this bill passed.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: How much time is remaining on the Republican side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a total of 6 minutes remaining on the Republican side. Senator ERNST has 1 minute left in her colloquy.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I yield back my time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time until just before the vote at 11:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask unanimous consent that my time be preserved for the remaining 7 minutes before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator PERDUE be recognized for 5 minutes and that it not be taken from my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I appreciate the accommodation.

I would like to add to what has been said here in the last few minutes.

We are at a very critical juncture during this Congress and, indeed, in our country. What I want to talk about today is the nonsense that is going on right now on funding our military. These are men and women in uniform around the world whose mission it is to protect our freedom.

Let me remind everybody that there were only six reasons why the Thirteen Colonies got together in the first place to create this Union. One of those was to provide for the national defense. Yet here we are basically trying to do what the President has asked—fund the military—and we are being obstructed by the people across the aisle. I just don't understand that.

Right now, we have people who are in danger of not being able to fulfill their missions around the world. A member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have traveled extensively over the last 1½ years. Around the world, I have seen where dedicated men and women don't have the resources to fulfill their missions, and it endangers the very freedom we have here at home.

I believe this is a critical point in this Congress to tell the American people that we are either going to break through this gridlock and move to do what is right or we are going to sit here on our hands and argue the political side of this while our men and women are in danger.

One of the hardest things to understand right now is the fact that in the last 30 years, we literally have continued to disinvest in our military. This chart shows how we have disinvested in the military under the last three Democratic Presidents. This green line is a chart of the percentage of GDP we spend on our military. It has gotten down all the way to where today we are

spending 3 percent of our GDP. It is the lowest point in the last 30 years. I will say this: The 30-year average here is about 4.2 percent. That differential is 100 basis points. What that means is, in the size of the economy today, it is about \$200 billion. Put that in perspective. We are spending about \$600 billion on our military today. Can you imagine what a difference that would make?

The last time a Secretary of Defense put a budget up based on a bottom-up estimate of need based on the missions around the world—it was Secretary Gates in 2011. In 2011, he estimated that for 2016 and 2017—what we are talking about here in their budget—his estimate was some tens of billions of dollars more than what we are doing now. His estimate was prior to ISIS and prior to Russia's activity in Crimea, Ukraine, and Georgia.

What happens now is that in the next 10 years, unless something is done—under the current Presidential plan of spending for the next 10 years, not only are we going to add \$9.5 trillion to our debt, but we are going to reduce military spending to 2.6 percent of GDP. That is another roughly \$100 billion of cuts if the economy stays the same.

I just don't understand this brinksmanship that we see. This is not the first time; I think this is the fifth time we are going to have voted on funding our military. The reaction of the other side befuddles me from the standpoint that they tell us they want to support our men and women. They give us these heart-wrenching stories, and yet they won't stand up and even let us get the bill on the floor.

To be brief, it is time for the Democrats to stop the obstructionism and the political showmanship. This is about the security of our country, about the lives of our men and women abroad. They deserve better than this. We can do better than this.

The world is more dangerous than at any time in my lifetime. It is time that we stand up and tell the world what we are committed to, and that is to provide for our own national defense. That means funding this Defense appropriations bill.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized, and if the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. SHAHEEN, comes to the floor, I would yield to her until the time that I already have reserved.

Mr. President, we are about to vote on a couple of motions to instruct the conferees on the Defense authorization bill and the Defense appropriations bill to move forward on it. All of these

votes are very vital to the future of this Nation in a time of turmoil, a time of the greatest number of refugees since the end of World War II, threats throughout the world, and attacks on the United States of America.

Very appropriately, Senator SULLIVAN's motion to instruct the conferees is for us to account for and authorize funding for the recent actions taken by the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense—a force of 8,400 sailors, airmen, and marines within Afghanistan; the President's budget for the European Reassurance Initiative, which is additional funds sufficient to enable the air, ground, and amphibious force structure to fulfill the commitment that Secretary Carter made at the Shangri-La dialogue within the Pacific theater. The list goes on and on.

Every time we turn around, we hear of another increase in our military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan and buildups, for example, in Eastern Europe, which was recently decided at a meeting of the NATO nations. Yet, with all of these promises and commitments, we see no request for additional funding to take care of these new missions and new requirements for our military activities. So I think Senator SULLIVAN's motion is entirely in order.

Does it really make sense to have these very large, when you put them all together—billions of dollars of increased requirements, announce them with great fanfare, and yet never come over—not yet once—to request additional funding for them? That is obviously, at best, disingenuous.

So I urge my colleagues' support for the motion by Senator SULLIVAN to disagree and insist that the final conference include authorization for the commitments that are described in the motion.

The second, of course, is an issue that has been plaguing us or has been the subject of great discussion and debate and heartache, frankly, on the floor of the Senate, and that is the issue of the Afghan special immigrant visas.

It is heartbreaking that Members of the Senate, for their own parochial interests—just a couple, actually—would block this legislation, which calls for us to be able to bring to the United States these people who literally risked their lives on our behalf and whose lives are in danger as we speak.

My colleagues don't have to take my word for it. Ambassador Ryan Crocker—probably the most distinguished diplomat I know—speaking of these interpreters, recently wrote: "This is truly a matter of life and death."

I repeat what Ambassador Crocker said:

This is a matter of life and death. I know hundreds of people who have been threatened because of their affiliation with the United States. Some have been killed. Today, many are in hiding, praying that the United States keeps its word. We can and must do better.

General Petraeus said:

Many of our Afghan allies have not only been mission-essential—serving as the eyes and ears of our own troops and often saving American lives—they have risked their own and their families' lives in the line of duty.

General Petraeus has stated eloquently that these individuals put their lives on the line to save the lives of American service men and women, and yet we have Members of this body who block a proposal to allow them to come to the United States of America. Remarkable. Remarkable.

General Nicholson, our commander in Afghanistan, said:

It is my firm belief that abandoning this program would significantly undermine our credibility and the 15 years of tremendous sacrifice by thousands of Afghans on behalf of Americans and Coalition partners.

I say to my colleagues, this is pretty straightforward. This is a pretty straightforward issue. That we even have to do this is testimony to the nature of the way we seem to be doing business around here, and that is that people would literally put the lives of our allies in danger for their own parochial interests, for their own amendment, which they are demanding not only be taken up but passed, which has nothing to do with the lives of these great individuals who saved the lives of Americans and whose lives are in danger, according to our military leaders and our most respected diplomats.

Retired GEN Stanley McChrystal, an individual known to all of us, said: "Protecting these allies is as much a matter of American national morality as it is American national security."

In the view of General McChrystal, one of our great, outstanding leaders, we are talking about our moral obligation.

I hope and pray we will get a unanimous vote on this motion to instruct.

Finally, we are going to again have a vote to move forward on the Defense appropriations bill. I understand that it probably will fail, and that is an unbelievable act. It is unbelievable, given the situation in the world today and the threats we face—in the words of the Director of National Intelligence, in the words of the Director of the CIA, there will be further attacks on the United States of America—that my friends on the other side of the aisle are refusing to take up the legislation that pays for the defense of this Nation. It is beyond belief.

I don't like provisions in the Defense appropriations bill, and I have made it very clear, and I want us to be able to take it up and amend to make it better. Maybe some of us—maybe a majority of us have priorities that were not in the Defense appropriations bill. Suppose we don't like the fact that they appropriated \$1 billion for an icebreaker that has nothing to do with defense or that they have this long laundry list of porkbarrel projects that they call scientific research projects. I want to debate and amend those.

A lot has happened since the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee unani-

mously passed out the Defense appropriations bill. A lot has happened, and all 100 of us should have the ability to amend and make it better. Instead, we are being put down on the path to a continuing resolution and an omnibus bill on which there will not be debate and amendments to make it better for the men and women who are serving.

The President just announced that we are going to have 8,400 men and women who are serving this country in Afghanistan instead of 5,400-some. Shouldn't we take that in consideration in our deliberations on the appropriations bill? Shouldn't we accommodate for that, as is our role and obligation as the Congress of the United States? We have the power of the purse.

We are now looking at a situation where we have a world that is literally on fire. That is apparent every day we pick up the newspaper or turn on the television. Instead of having a robust debate and discussion and amendments as to how we can best defend this Nation, we are going to again have my friends on the other side of the aisle stop us from taking it up. Why? The Appropriations Committee reported it out unanimously.

The Democratic leader said that he didn't want another "McCain amendment" that would increase funding for defense without a commensurate increase in funding for nondefense. I have said to my colleagues: If you are talking about the CIA, if you are talking about homeland security, if you are talking about other agencies of government to protect this Nation, then fine.

Mr. President, I note the presence of the Senator from New Hampshire on the floor. I ask unanimous consent that she be granted 5 minutes and that I be granted 2 minutes after that.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Arizona has expired.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am thankful to my colleague from Arizona.

I am pleased to be here on the floor because in a few minutes I am going to be offering a motion to instruct the conferees for the NDAA to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program and to authorize additional visas for deserving applicants.

For those of us who remember the debates we had on the floor during the NDAA, we will remember that we had come to an agreement. The opponents of this program had agreed with JOHN MCCAIN and me that we needed to keep the promises we had made to so many of those Afghan interpreters who made a life-and-death difference in helping our service men and women on the ground in Afghanistan as they fought the Taliban.

This is a program that Senator MCCAIN and I have worked on for several years. We have been successful in previous years in getting this exten-

sion and keeping the word—the promise we made to those Afghan interpreters and keeping the word of the American Government that we are going to help those who helped us. Yet we go into this NDAA conference without an extension of the Special Immigrant Visa Program.

Without congressional action, the Afghan SIV Program will largely sunset around December. It will leave thousands of Afghans who stood alongside our men and women and other government personnel at severe risk.

I talked to a woman this morning who told me the story of an Afghan interpreter who just arrived in the United States last night. She said he had been waiting 3 years to get his special immigrant visa. During that time, he was so worried about his family that he slept in another room at night when he went to bed so that if the Taliban found them, they would kill only him and not the rest of his family.

This country owes a great debt to the Afghans who provided essential assistance to our mission in Afghanistan, the thousands of brave men and women who, like this man who just arrived in the United States, put themselves and their families at risk to help our soldiers and our diplomats accomplish their mission and return home safely. Congress must not turn its back on these individuals. That outcome would be a moral failing, and it would also carry significant national security strategic costs going forward.

So I would hope that when we have this vote on the motion to instruct that my colleagues will agree with Senator MCCAIN and I that this is something we need to do. We need to make sure one of the things that comes out of that NDAA conference is an agreement to extend those special visas to those individuals who were still in the pipeline.

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleague from Arizona for all of his work to try to get this done, and I hope that by working together, we can make this happen.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from New Hampshire for her leadership, her dedication, and tenacity in making sure this issue is not dispensed with until it is finished and we fulfill our commitment to the men and women who are serving, who have literally sacrificed their lives as interpreters for the good welfare and the safety of our members in the uniformed military, whom the Senator from New Hampshire and I hear from all the time on behalf of their interpreters. We hear from them all the time, saying: Don't abandon them. They saved my life.

Can't we understand how important this moral obligation is?

Finally, I hope my colleagues will not vote to block consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. We need to debate, we need to improve, and we

need to provide for the needs of the military and this Nation's security in an ever-changing environment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to disagree in the House amendment, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and to appoint conferees with respect to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 90, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Enzi	Murphy
Ayotte	Ernst	Murray
Baldwin	Feinstein	Nelson
Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Bennet	Flake	Peters
Blumenthal	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Reed
Booker	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Boxer	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Heitkamp	Rubio
Burr	Heller	Sasse
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Capito	Hoeven	Schumer
Cardin	Inhofe	Scott
Carper	Isakson	Sessions
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Coats	King	Stabenow
Cochran	Kirk	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Corker	McCain	Tillis
Cornyn	McCaskill	Toomey
Cotton	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	Menendez	Vitter
Cruz	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Moran	Wicker
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Paul	Warren
Leahy	Reid	
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Franken	Klobuchar	Lee
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 90, the nays are 7.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, the compound motion to go to conference is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next two votes be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I have a motion to instruct which is at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Hampshire [Mrs. SHAHEEN] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on S. 2943 (the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017) be instructed to insist that the final conference report include language to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program through December 31, 2017 and authorize additional visas to ensure visas are available for applicants who meet the criteria under the program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of my motion to instruct the Senate National Defense Authorization Act conferees to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program and authorize additional visas for deserving applicants. The SIV Program allows Afghans who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan to seek refuge in this country because they face grave threats as a result of helping our men and women on the ground there.

I just wish to point out that when we had the debate on the NDAA, we had an agreement on what an amendment to extend the Special Immigrant Visa Program would look like. That amendment would have allowed for 2,500 additional special immigrant visas to cover those people still in the pipeline who are facing threats because of helping American soldiers. And while we had agreement from the majority of the body, unfortunately, because of an unrelated issue, we were not able to get this amendment passed.

This is an opportunity for us to come back at this and do what is right, do what our commanders and our diplomats say we need to do for the national security interests of America. So I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this motion to instruct.

I would like to now ask my partner in this effort, Senator MCCAIN, if he would say a few words.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as soon as Senator MCCAIN speaks in favor of this, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes in opposition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes in opposition remaining, and the Senator from Arizona is asking for 2 additional minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arizona has 25 seconds remaining.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, please don't take my word for it. How about general David Petraeus. Many of our Afghan allies have not only been mission-essential, serving as the eyes and ears of our own troops and often saving American lives, they have risked their own and their families' lives in the line of duty.

This program falls far short and has serious national security implications. Ambassador Ryan Crocker: This is truly a matter of life and death. I know hundreds of people who have been threatened because of their affiliation with the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask for an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SESSIONS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Who yields time in opposition?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I worked with Senator MCCAIN and Senator SHAHEEN, and we agreed to 2,500 new refugees who would enter under this program, and we had some language in there that tightened it up. This legislation allows an unlimited number to come here under the program and does not have the language that tightens up the program and brings it to an end eventually. That is the difference of opinion at this point.

I am disappointed this was brought up, and last night we first learned about it.

I would just note, there are 7,000 visas authorized over the last few years; only 3,500 have been used and 3,500 remain. The House extends the program. It does not add any additional number. They considered it at length. Chairman GOODLATTE opposes this.

Also, the motion fails to acknowledge the need to pay for and prioritize the visas. These visas will cost, according to CBO, \$281 million over 10 years. Just 2,500 would cost that much so this has an unlimited number.

I think the right thing for us to do is to not agree to this motion to instruct.

I would be glad to work with Senator MCCAIN and Senator SHAHEEN and support the agreement we reached last time that got blocked by other Members for other reasons, but I oppose this because it is unlimited, it is unpaid for, and I don't believe it is necessary based on the facts on the ground.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Point of order, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, may I ask for a clarification? The vote we are having is not on a particular piece of legislation; is that correct? This is on a motion to instruct the conferees so it does not deal with the particular piece of legislation Senator SESSIONS has suggested.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct. The vote before the Senate is on the Senator's motion to instruct the managers on this matter.

All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Ayotte	Ernst	Murphy
Baldwin	Feinstein	Murray
Barrasso	Fischer	Nelson
Bennet	Flake	Perdue
Blumenthal	Gardner	Peters
Blunt	Gillibrand	Portman
Booker	Graham	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Reid
Boxer	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	King	Stabenow
Cassidy	Kirk	Sullivan
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Manchin	Thune
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McCain	Toomey
Corker	McCaskill	Udall
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Cotton	Menendez	Warren
Daines	Merkley	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Mikulski	Wicker
Durbin	Moran	Wyden

NAYS—12

Cruz	Lankford	Scott
Grassley	Paul	Sessions
Heller	Risch	Shelby
Inhofe	Rubio	Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Crapo	Klobuchar
Franken	Lee

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I have a motion to instruct at the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. SULLIVAN] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on S. 2943 (the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017) be instructed to insist that the final conference report include authorization for the following commitments recently made by the President and Secretary of Defense:

Maintaining a force of approximately 8,400 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines within Afghanistan into 2017 as announced by President Obama on July 6th to continue to train and advise Afghan forces and to conduct counterterrorism operations;

The President's budget request for the European Reassurance Initiative to establish increased rotational presence in Europe, provide ample United States Armed Forces end strength and combat capability to meet all regional contingency plans, increase operational responsiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and to fulfill President Obama's commitment to move forward with "the most significant reinforcement of collective defense anytime during the Cold War";

Sufficient naval, air, ground and amphibious force structure and weapons systems to fulfil the commitment made by Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter at the Shangri-La Dialogue that within the Asia-Pacific theater "the United States will remain the most powerful military and main underwriter of security in the region for decades to come";

Sufficient levels of military forces, munitions, logistics support, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, and other enabling support, and the deployment of sufficient operational capabilities to meet President Obama's commitment to go after ISIL aggressively until it's removed from Syria and Iraq and finally destroyed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I rise to support my motion to instruct in relation to the NDAA of 2017. In the past few weeks the President and the Secretary of Defense have made additional military commitments across the globe for our men and women in uniform, and we have read about these. These include 560 troops to Iraq to help reinforce the fight against ISIS, a decision to keep 8,400 members of the military in Afghanistan fighting against terrorism, 1,000 troops in Poland and a headquarters to beef up NATO's eastern flank, as well as two carrier strike groups in the South China Sea to protect freedom of the seas.

I believe many of us are supportive of these commitments. However, in order to support these pledges, we need to make sure we fully authorize these commitments so our brave men and women in uniform have everything they need to fight and win these battles.

When our service men and women train here and deploy abroad, they

need to know that the Congress of the United States and the Senate of the United States stand with them. Supporting this motion to instruct lets them know we have their back, as we should.

I yield to my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, we worked with Senator SULLIVAN on this instruction. It is consistent, as the Senator has indicated, with the President's proposal with respect to force structure in Afghanistan and with our European Reassurance Initiative, where we are increasing our presence and cooperating more closely with our European allies. It is consistent with our position in the Pacific as articulated by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. It is consistent with proposals that have been made in other areas, and it does not expand the authority of the President. It simply recognizes what he has asked not just of our Congress but more importantly of the men and women who wear the uniform in the United States. This instruction will help us in our deliberations, and I would thank the Senator and urge its passage.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, as you can see, there is bipartisan support for this measure. I ask that all my colleagues support it now.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the motion offered by Senator SULLIVAN to instruct conferees to the Defense authorization bill includes several important proposals.

First, it urges conferees to fully fund the cost of overseas military operations, including our commitment to Afghanistan. This stands in sharp contrast to the irresponsible House proposal to cut off war funding on April 30, 2017. This provision is reckless and short-sighted and is the subject of a veto threat by the administration.

Second, it endorses full funding of the European Reassurance Initiative. This is the administration's most important response to Russia's aggression in the Ukraine and threatening behavior towards our European friends and allies.

The President's budget request quadrupled spending on this effort, from \$789 million this year to \$3.4 billion next year. In light of the recent NATO conference, full support for the European Reassurance Initiative is critical to demonstrating the American commitment for the security of the people of Poland, the Baltics, and many other countries who are worried about Vladimir Putin.

Third, the motion endorses statements made by Secretary of Defense

Ash Carter that highlight the U.S. commitment to maintaining the strongest, most capable Armed Forces in the world.

The commitment calls to mind the testimony of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Paul Selva, earlier this year, before the Senate Armed Services Committee: “I will take umbrage with the notion that our military has been gutted. So I stand here today a person that’s worn this uniform for 35 years. At no time in my career have I been more confident than this in saying we have the most powerful military on the face of the planet.”

Finally, the motion endorses all the necessary military tools to meet the President’s commitment to destroy ISIL in Iraq and Syria. So far, our campaign against ISIL has resulted in their loss of nearly half their territory in Iraq, and nearly a quarter in Syria.

The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency warned that ISIL remains very dangerous and is likely plotting or inspiring more terrorist attacks. We must keep up the pressure on ISIL, using not only our military but all of our intelligence, law enforcement, diplomatic, and financial enforcement tools that our Nation has.

I have concerns that our government can do more to stop the ISIL threat that is not limited to our military campaign. For example, after the tragic shooting in Orlando, the American people heard stories of the labor-intensive effort that is required for the FBI to track the many tips relating to domestic terrorism sent in by the public.

Defeating ISIL will require the use of every tool at the disposal of our government, not just our Armed Forces. We should ask ourselves: if ISIL is squeezed out of Syria and Iraq, where are they going to go? And are we doing enough intelligence, law enforcement, and diplomatic work to catch ISIL terrorists as they cross international borders?

It is my hope that Congress will be able to negotiate an omnibus appropriations bill this fall, and we should reject one-sided solutions that only address one part of the ISIL threat. I hope we can address that issue in the same bipartisan way that I expect the Senate to support these motions made by the Senator from Alaska.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING BILL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about the urgent need to provide full funding for our response to the Zika virus. Nearly 5 months ago, on February 22, President Obama submitted a request to Congress for \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental funding to address the growing Zika epidemic. The request included \$1.509 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS; \$335 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID; \$41 million for the Department of State; and support for several other Federal agencies.

The administration’s plan—which has the full weight of the scientific community behind it—represents a coordinated and well-funded, whole-of-government approach to combating the virus with a focus on prevention, treatment, and research.

But instead of listening to the experts, Republicans choose instead to abide by a partisan agenda: offering a Zika conference report that underfunded critical Federal, State, and global response efforts by more than \$800 million, and included poisonous policy riders and pay-fors that gratuitously attacked the Affordable Care Act, the safety of our Nation’s drinking water, and women’s reproductive rights. The Senate rejected the Zika conference report and rightfully so.

The Republican leadership particularly in the House seem to be forgetting that the Zika virus is a mosquito-borne disease that has a real, devastating impacts on women and their babies. There have been over 1,100 travel-associated Zika cases reported in the continental United States, including 31 in my home State of Maryland and 2,474 locally acquired cases across the U.S. territories. Because of Zika, babies are being born in the United States and throughout Central and South America with horrible birth defects. To date, more than 600 pregnant women in the continental U.S. and the territories are being monitored following laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection, according to the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.

Without congressional action to fund our response to the Zika epidemic adequately, the efforts to better understand and combat this disease will be derailed. According to Dr. Tony Fauci, the Nation’s leading infectious disease expert and Director of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, NIAID, “The vaccine effort will be blunted if not aborted if we don’t have the funding.”

Dr. Fauci also emphasized that other vital HHS and NIH programs will suffer if the agency is forced to focus funding primarily on vaccine development. The NIAID has already diverted funds from malaria and tuberculosis research to fund Zika efforts. It is unconscionable that the Republican leadership is forcing our public health officials to make these kinds of decisions.

State and local health departments also bear the brunt of the consequences of not fully funding our Zika response efforts. Our Nation’s health departments are on the front lines of combating this disease, working on a grassroots level to expand and enhance prevention efforts, including mosquito surveillance and control; promoting culturally conscious education campaigns to raise public awareness; and equipping our health care workforce with the most medically accurate guidelines to help patients make informed decisions about their health care.

Zika will not simply disappear without adequate funding. Congress must

pass an adequate and clean Zika funding bill. Leaving Washington, DC, for the summer recess without sufficiently funding Zika response efforts is irresponsible and does an incredible disservice to the American people.

Neglecting to pass an appropriate Zika response bill is a failure to expectant mothers who have growing concerns about the lasting impact a mosquito bite this summer could have on the health of their unborn children; it is a failure to the ambitious U.S. athletes who are considering sidelining their dreams of Olympic glory over the fear of contracting the virus; and it is a failure to the millions of Americans who entrust us to do everything in our power to safeguard their health and well-being. Although we should not incite panic about Zika, the seriousness of this problem is too great to be ignored. If we expect to make adequate progress on combating this virus this year—and if we want to protect the health and welfare of all Americans—Congress must pass a clean, well-resourced Zika funding bill without delay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Enzi	Nelson
Ayotte	Ernst	Perdue
Baldwin	Feinstein	Peters
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Bennet	Flake	Reed
Blumenthal	Gardner	Reid
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Booker	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hatch	Rounds
Brown	Heinrich	Rubio
Burr	Heitkamp	Sasse
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Scott
Cardin	Inhofe	Sessions
Carper	Isakson	Shaheen
Casey	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kaine	Stabenow
Coats	King	Sullivan
Cochran	Kirk	Tester
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Coons	Manchin	Tillis
Corker	McCain	Toomey
Cornyn	McCaskill	Udall
Cotton	McConnell	Vitter
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Donnelly	Murkowski	
Durbin	Murray	

NAYS—12

Boxer	Markey	Sanders
Gillibrand	Merkley	Schatz
Heller	Murphy	Warren
Leahy	Paul	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Franken	Klobuchar	Lee
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, the next and final vote will be cloture on the MILCON-VA-Zika proposal at 2 o'clock. That will be it for the week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Thad Cochran, Jerry Moran, Richard C. Shelby, John Hoeven, Lamar Alexander, Orrin G. Hatch, Daniel Coats, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Bill Cassidy, John Thune, John Boozman, John Cornyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5293, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon consideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Heller	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Donnelly	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Shaheen
Cardin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Cooms	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Nelson	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Franken	Klobuchar	Lee
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, upon reconsideration, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I was about to leave the Chamber, but in light of the results of the last vote, I am compelled—I am compelled to speak out more in disappointment than in rage. Although I think a lot of men and women who are serving in the military who are dependent on what we do for their safety and their livelihood, for pure—pure—partisan and political reasons, we will not be moving forward to consider a bill to train and equip the men and women who are in the military, to give them their pay and benefits and defend this Nation.

How? How do you do that in good conscience? I understand we are in an election year. I understand all that, but how in the world do you refuse to take up legislation that its only purpose is to defend this Nation, which is under assault?

I just came back from spending the Fourth of July with the troops in Afghanistan. They depend on us. They depend on us. We are their elected representatives, and what have we done now? We refuse to move forward with legislation that allows them to defend themselves, and they are in harm's way.

All I can say is that when we see polling data that shows the American

people have a very low opinion of us—I see numbers, 13, 14 percent of the American people approve of Congress—this is validation. This is validation of their absolute disgust with our failure to do the work to protect the Nation. Isn't that our first priority? That has always been mine, to secure the Nation, to make sure we protect ourselves as much as possible. We rely on these young men and women. We rely on them to defend the Nation, and now we will not even act to train, arm, equip, pay, and care for them. That is disgraceful. That is disgraceful.

Yes, this side of the aisle has been guilty of partisan behavior, and I will plead guilty to all that. But how in the world—how in the world do you go back to your home State, as we will tonight and tomorrow, and meet these young men and women who are serving, as is one of the great privileges we have, and look them in the eye—look them in the eye and tell them I voted against legislation which was to arm and train and equip you and protect this Nation. I voted against it because the Democratic leader said, well, he didn't want an amendment that would increase spending on defense—on defense.

Without getting too redundant, I hope maybe we might take the next couple of months before we come back and examine what we are doing and why we can't agree at least on debating and amending and making better—which we can do because that is what the Senate is all about. Can't we do that for them? Do we have to be so divided that we will not even move forward with perhaps one of the most important pieces of legislation this body and this Nation is responsible for?

I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle will examine their conscience.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. FISCHER pertaining to the introduction of S. 3213 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. FISCHER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING AND OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, I came to the floor to talk about the threat that is posed to all of us by the Zika virus. Since then, more than 3,500 Americans have contracted this terrible virus. Unborn babies are being put at risk for a serious medical condition called microcephaly, which is a condition—I will tell you this as a doctor—where babies are born with smaller heads and brain development problems, and adults can be paralyzed and even killed by this virus.

Here we are getting ready to vote in the next 15 minutes on an appropriations bill that is supposed to do something about this virus—the Zika virus.

How are the Democrats responding? They are peddling myths and playing politics. That is what they do. They already blocked this legislation once, and now they are ready to block it again. It is unbelievable.

This legislation includes \$1.1 billion to fight Zika. The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it would fund all of the agency's immediate needs in the fight against Zika at this point.

When the Senate voted on this in May, every Democrat in the body voted to support the exact same amount of money. Two months ago, Democrats thought this was the right answer, but now they are willing to let the American people suffer because of this virus. What happened? What changed in the last 2 months that would have the Democrats who voted for it now vote against it? Nothing has changed except that the situation has actually gotten worse and more dangerous for people. I think the Democrats were never serious about wanting to do anything at all. Democrats decided they would rather have a political issue than have a real solution. Democrats aren't going to be able to dodge responsibility this time. We are running out of time to prevent an epidemic.

Last week, Senator BILL NELSON from Florida said: We are at the 11th hour and 59th minute. That is exactly right. Why, then, is Senator NELSON and his Democratic colleagues playing a game of chicken with the American people?

There was a poll that came out last week by the Kaiser Family Foundation

which found that 76 percent of Americans support the Zika legislation that we have on the floor. Democrats ought to start listening to the American people. They should stop playing political games and take the money they asked for and that the Centers for Disease Control says is the right amount of money to fight the spread of this threat to the health of the American people.

This is not the first time that Democrats in this body have put their own political talking points ahead of the American people in terms of their health care. At the beginning of this year, Republicans passed legislation to repeal the President's health care law. Why? So we can replace it with health care reforms that work for the American people. We want to act, and we acted to protect the American people from a health care law that has harmed so many people across the country and that so many people feel has absolutely punished them. President Obama vetoed the legislation, and Democrats in Congress resisted every attempt to undo years of damage caused by ObamaCare.

Republicans offer solutions. Democrats just want to try to preserve the President's legacy, no matter what. Democrats are totally ignoring all of the chaos and all of the harm that is being caused by this health care law.

Taxpayers paid to set up 23 different insurance co-ops across the country, and 16 of them have now folded. Only a third of the original co-ops are still operating. Billions of dollars in taxpayer money have been wasted, never to be paid back, and more than 850,000 Americans have lost their insurance that they got through the co-ops because the insurance co-ops can't afford to stay in business under the health care law.

The co-op in Illinois collapsed just this week. That is the President's home State. Last week, it was co-ops in Oregon and Connecticut. Yet the Senator from Connecticut comes to the floor and says the health care law is working. It is not, even in his home State. There are more than 20,000 people in Oregon who have been left scrambling to find new coverage starting July 31—just a couple of weeks from now.

It is not just people who belong to the co-ops who are losing their insurance. The largest insurance company in Minnesota says they are going to stop selling insurance in their State at the end of the year. BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota covers over 100,000 people. All of them are going to lose their insurance and have to find coverage elsewhere.

President Obama said: If you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance. Not for the people in Oregon, not for the people in Illinois, not for the people in Connecticut, and not for the people in Minnesota.

Americans who don't lose their insurance are going to have to get ready to

pay a lot more for it next year, even if they can keep what they have. They sure don't like it. More companies have been saying how much they plan to charge next year, and the numbers are staggering. In Montana, BlueCross BlueShield just announced on Friday that it is raising ObamaCare rates 62 percent. Who can afford that? It is incredible. And the President has the nerve to call it the Affordable Care Act and to tell Members of the Senate that they should forcefully defend and be proud of it. There is very little to be proud of. It is happening all across the country because of this law. Premiums are skyrocketing. So are deductibles. So are copays. Every other cost that people pay out of pocket for their health care is going up—all of this since ObamaCare went into effect, and it is because of ObamaCare.

I read a story the other day that said that before ObamaCare, for every doctor, there were six administrators out there trying to administer health care in the country in terms of doing the paperwork, pushing the paper around. Now it is nine for every one doctor. So we have gone from six to nine administrators for every doctor practicing medicine.

People across the country are rejecting what President Obama is continuing to claim is working well.

Just before the Fourth of July, we learned that 1.6 million people who signed up this year for ObamaCare have already quit by the end of March. They signed up at the beginning of the year and quit by the end of March—1.6 million.

The Congressional Budget Office said that they were expecting by this time over 21 million people to have signed up for ObamaCare. Well, with more and more dropouts, we are at only half that number, and it is just more evidence that the President's health care law is cratering, it is collapsing.

There is so much bad news out of this ObamaCare information that we continue to have that the White House feels they can't hide it any longer, so they dribble it out over the Fourth of July weekend—right before the Fourth of July, when people are paying attention to other things—because they don't want the world to know how badly this is actually working. Yet, what the President says is "forcefully defend and be proud."

The President is ignoring the fact that 1.6 million people who already listened to him this year and signed up have already gotten out of it because it is a bad deal. He totally ignores the 850,000 Americans who have lost their insurance because of his failed co-ops. Instead, he actually wrote an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association patting himself on the back, congratulating himself—it came out this Monday—on how great he thinks this health care law is. It is delusional for him to think that. It is ignoring the reality of what the American people see. He is living in a cocoon

of self-delusion. That is what we are seeing across the country—the President ignoring the facts.

In the article, the President actually says that the health care law should be expanded—expanded, he said—by offering government-run health insurance plans. If President Obama and the Democrats in Congress think America needs more government control, more control over people's health care, they are really out of touch with reality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I wonder if the Senator will yield for a question.

Mr. BARRASSO. Most certainly.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, the Senator makes an excellent point about the tremendous cost increases that American taxpayers and American medical consumers have experienced, as well as the number of insurers that are just leaving the scheme altogether. So Americans really are not any better off.

I appreciate the Senator coming to the floor time and again with the facts about this issue, but in particular I want to go back to a point the Senator made with regard to what we are going to vote on in a few minutes. Do I understand from my friend from Wyoming that we will soon be voting on—at the top of the hour, we will be voting on a proposal that funds the Zika disease at an amount that the CDC says is necessary and at an amount that our friends on the Democratic side have argued for and voted for time and again? Do I understand that to be correct?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the distinguished Senator from Mississippi understands correctly, because at this point, the request, and what the Democrats voted for earlier this year—\$1.1 billion, which is what the Centers for Disease Control says is the correct amount—the Democrats are now seeming to vote against it. They voted against it earlier this week.

Mr. WICKER. This very bill we will be voting on funds Zika at that amount?

Mr. BARRASSO. At the amount requested by the Centers for Disease Control.

Mr. WICKER. I was disappointed to hear the Senator say that he believes the Democrats will come in and once again block this funding this afternoon. If that happens, when will be the next opportunity that this body will have to vote on this vital funding?

Mr. BARRASSO. I think we are talking about at least 7 weeks from now. If the Democrats don't change their tune, there is a lot of damage that is going to occur over that period of time.

Now is the time to kill the mosquitoes because remember, as my colleague from Mississippi knows, it is the mosquitoes that carry the virus—the virus that, if a person is bitten and gets that virus, can cause all of these very consequential health impacts to

babies who are yet to be born, as well as to adults.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I would just observe—and there may be others who wish to speak in the very short time we have—I would just observe that we have a bill before us that gives the administration what they have been requesting, that gives our friends on the Democratic side of the aisle what they have asked for time and time again, saying that the Senate should act. We have an opportunity to do that today and to leave here with a victory for health care and a victory for the American people. Yet, if we do not act—and it appears we will not because Democrats will come in and object and not get the 60 votes—then it is going to be a month and a half to 2 months before we can provide the funding for this vital disease-prevention legislation.

So I would just say that I would call on my colleagues, here at the eleventh hour, to reconsider their position. Let's go out for the conventions on a positive note and give the American people the funding the experts in our government tell us is necessary.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Wyoming and thank him for yielding the time.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I appreciate so much the comments by the Senator from Mississippi, who is absolutely right. There are two components of this. One is to kill the mosquitoes now. The other thing we need to move ahead with is coming up with a vaccine that can help prevent this virus from taking hold if someone happens to be bitten by a mosquito. So we need to do two things: We need the research and we need to kill the mosquitoes now.

It was astonishing that one of the Democrats was opposed to the fact that what we wanted to do was make it easier to spray the mosquitoes because we have to spray near water. Well, that is where mosquitoes tend to multiply; it is where they breed; it is where the Zika virus is born. But they were so concerned that there would be a regulation that for a short period of time would be laid aside. We would still have to use only the things that have been properly approved for spraying near water. It seems as though the Democrats were willing to line up by the mosquitoes instead of the people being bitten by the mosquitoes. This is how ludicrous this has gotten.

The money requested by the CDC—the right amount of money—is here on the floor to be voted on today. We have to get the research going. We have to spray and kill the mosquitoes. But, once again, it seems the Democrats would rather have a political reason than a solution.

I would recommend that the Democrats, coming out of their lunch meeting they are having now with their nominee for President, Hillary Clinton—they are not here in the floor defending themselves; they are out there

visiting with Hillary Clinton. They need to come to the floor of the Senate and vote to approve this legislation today, to get the money to the Centers for Disease Control, to do the research, to kill the mosquitoes.

Republicans are here offering solutions. Democrats are offering gridlock and the same old political games.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BARRASSO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Enzi	Paul
Ayotte	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Gardner	Roberts
Burr	Graham	Rounds
Capito	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Heller	Scott
Cochran	Hoeven	Sessions
Collins	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Isakson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Johnson	Thune
Cotton	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	
Donnelly	Murkowski	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reid
Booker	King	Sanders
Boxer	Lankford	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Manchin	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Heinrich	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—4

Franken	Lee	Tillis
Klobuchar		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, upon consideration, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 524, H.R. 5293, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, James Lankford, John Thune, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Joni Ernst, David Perdue, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

WATERFRONT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND RESILIENCY ACT OF 2015

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 508, S. 1935.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1935) to require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) many communities in the United States were developed along waterfronts;

(2) water proximity and access is a recognized economic driver;

(3) water shortages faced by parts of the United States underscore the need to manage water sustainably and restore water quality;

(4) interest in waterfront revitalization and development has grown, while the circumstances driving waterfront development have changed;

(5) waterfront communities face challenges to revitalizing and leveraging water resources, such as outdated development patterns, deteriorated water infrastructure, industrial contamination of soil and sediment, and lack of public access to the waterfront, which are often compounded by overarching economic distress in the community;

(6) public investment in waterfront community development and infrastructure should reflect changing ecosystem conditions and extreme weather projections to ensure strategic, resilient investments;

(7) individual communities have unique priorities, concerns, and opportunities related to waterfront restoration and community revitalization; and

(8) the Secretary of Commerce has unique expertise in Great Lakes and ocean coastal resiliency and economic development.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(2) RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY.—The term "resilient waterfront community" means a unit of local government or Indian tribe that is—

(A)(i) bound in part by—

(I) the Great Lakes; or

(II) the ocean; or

(ii) bordered or traversed by a riverfront or an inland lake;

(B) self-nominated as a resilient waterfront community; and

(C) designated by the Secretary as a resilient waterfront community on the basis of the development by the community of an eligible resilient waterfront community plan, with eligibility determined by the Secretary after considering the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of section 4.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 4. RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES DESIGNATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall designate resilient waterfront communities based on the extent to which a community meets the criteria described in subsection (b).

(2) **COLLABORATION.**—For inland lake and riverfront communities, in making the designation described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall work with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the heads of other Federal agencies, as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(b) **RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY PLAN.**—A resilient waterfront community plan is a community-driven vision and plan that is developed—

(1) voluntarily at the discretion of the community—

(A) to respond to local needs; or
(B) to take advantage of new water-oriented opportunities;

(2) with the leadership of the relevant governmental entity or Indian tribe with the active participation of—

(A) community residents;
(B) utilities; and
(C) interested business and nongovernmental stakeholders;

(3) as a new document or by amending or compiling community planning documents, as necessary, at the discretion of the Secretary;

(4) in consideration of all applicable State and Federal coastal zone management planning requirements;

(5) to address economic competitive strengths; and

(6) to complement and incorporate the objectives and recommendations of applicable regional economic plans.

(c) **COMPONENTS OF A RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY PLAN.**—A resilient waterfront community plan shall—

(1) consider all, or a portion of, the waterfront area and adjacent land and water to which the waterfront is connected ecologically, economically, or through local governmental or tribal boundaries;

(2) describe a vision and plan for the community to develop as a vital and resilient waterfront community, integrating consideration of—

(A) the economic opportunities resulting from water proximity and access, including—

(i) water-dependent industries;
(ii) water-oriented commerce; and
(iii) recreation and tourism;
(B) the community relationship to the water, including—

(i) quality of life;
(ii) public health;
(iii) community heritage; and
(iv) public access, particularly in areas in which publicly funded ecosystem restoration is underway;

(C) ecosystem challenges and projections, including unresolved and emerging impacts to the health and safety of the waterfront and projections for extreme weather and water conditions;

(D) infrastructure needs and opportunities, to facilitate strategic and sustainable capital investments in—

(i) docks, piers, and harbor facilities;
(ii) protection against storm surges, waves, and flooding;
(iii) stormwater, sanitary sewer, and drinking water systems, including green infrastructure and opportunities to control nonpoint source runoff; and
(iv) other community facilities and private development; and

(E) such other factors as are determined by the Secretary to align with metrics or indicators for resiliency, considering environmental and economic changes.

(d) **DURATION.**—After the designation of a community as a resilient waterfront community under subsection (a), a resilient waterfront community plan developed in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) may be—

(1) effective for the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary approves the resilient waterfront community plan; and

(2) updated by the resilient waterfront community and submitted to the Secretary for the

approval of the Secretary before the expiration of the 10-year period.

SEC. 5. RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES NETWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop and maintain a resilient waterfront communities network to facilitate the sharing of best practices among waterfront communities.

(b) **PUBLIC RECOGNITION.**—In consultation with designated resilient waterfront communities, the Secretary shall provide formal public recognition of the designated resilient waterfront communities to promote tourism, investment, or other benefits.

SEC. 6. WATERFRONT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To support a community in leveraging other sources of public and private investment, the Secretary may use existing authority to support—

(1) the development of a resilient waterfront community plan, including planning and feasibility analysis; and

(2) the implementation of strategic components of a resilient waterfront community plan after the resilient waterfront community plan has been approved by the Secretary.

(b) **NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.**—

(1) **LEAD NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.**—A unit of local government or an Indian tribe shall be eligible to be considered as a lead non-Federal partner if the unit of local government or Indian tribe is—

(A) bound in part by—
(i) the Great Lakes; or
(ii) the ocean; or
(B) bordered or traversed by a riverfront or an inland lake.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS.**—Subject to subsection (d)(3), a lead non-Federal partner may contract with an eligible non-Federal implementation partner for implementation activities described in subsection (d)(2).

(c) **PLANNING ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Technical assistance may be provided for the development of a resilient waterfront community plan.

(2) **ELIGIBLE PLANNING ACTIVITIES.**—In developing a resilient waterfront community plan, a resilient waterfront community may—

(A) conduct community visioning and outreach;
(B) identify challenges and opportunities;
(C) develop strategies and solutions;
(D) prepare plan materials, including text, maps, design, and preliminary engineering;
(E) collaborate across local agencies and work with regional, State, and Federal agencies to identify, understand, and develop responses to changing ecosystem and economic circumstances; and
(F) conduct other planning activities that the Secretary considers necessary for the development of a resilient waterfront community plan that responds to revitalization and resiliency issues confronted by the resilient waterfront community.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Implementation assistance may be provided—
(A) to initiate implementation of a resilient waterfront community plan and facilitate high-quality development, including leveraging local and private sector investment; and
(B) to address strategic community priorities that are identified in the resilient waterfront community plan.

(2) **ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance may be provided to advance implementation activities, such as—
(A) site preparation;
(B) environmental review;
(C) engineering and design;
(D) acquiring easements or land for uses such as green infrastructure, public amenities, or assembling development sites;

(E) updates to zoning codes;

(F) construction of—

(i) public waterfront or boating amenities; and
(ii) public spaces;

(G) infrastructure upgrades to improve coastal resiliency;

(H) economic and community development marketing and outreach; and

(I) other activities at the discretion of the Secretary.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To assist in the completion of implementation activities, a lead non-Federal partner may contract or otherwise collaborate with a non-Federal implementation partner, including—

(i) a nonprofit organization;
(ii) a public utility;
(iii) a private entity;
(iv) an institution of higher education;
(v) a State government; or
(vi) a regional organization.

(B) **LEAD NON-FEDERAL PARTNER RESPONSIBILITY.**—The lead non-Federal partner shall ensure that assistance and resources received by the lead non-Federal partner to advance the resilient waterfront community plan of the lead non-Federal partner and for related activities are used for the purposes of, and in a manner consistent with, any initiative advanced by the Secretary for the purpose of promoting waterfront community revitalization and resiliency.

(e) **USE OF NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A resilient waterfront community receiving assistance under this section shall provide non-Federal funds toward completion of planning or implementation activities.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.**—Non-Federal funds may be provided by—

(A) 1 or more units of local or tribal government;
(B) a State government;
(C) a nonprofit organization;
(D) a private entity;
(E) a foundation;
(F) a public utility; or
(G) a regional organization.

SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY AWARENESS.

At regular intervals, the Secretary shall provide a list of resilient waterfront communities to the applicable States and the heads of national and regional offices of interested Federal agencies, including at a minimum—

(1) the Secretary of Transportation;
(2) the Secretary of Agriculture;
(3) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
(4) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(5) the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
(6) the Secretary of the Interior; and
(7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 8. NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act may be construed as establishing new authority for any Federal agency.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Ms. BALDWIN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1935), as amended, was passed.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2127

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to honor the life of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick by passing a bill to strengthen whistleblower protections.

Last year the Center for Investigative Reporting published an article that revealed allegations of opioid overprescription, whistleblower retaliation, and a culture of fear at the Tomah VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI. It also detailed the tragic story of Jason Simcakoski, who passed away at the Tomah VA in 2014 from mixed drug toxicity. Jason had over one dozen different drugs in his system when he died.

Jason's life is honored by a bipartisan bill introduced by my colleague from Wisconsin that I am pleased to cosponsor: the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act. The bill aims to improve VA opioid prescribing guidelines and ensure greater coordination and oversight for patient treatments.

When I learned of the problems at the Tomah VA, I immediately directed my Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff to investigate. They reviewed thousands of pages of documents and conducted 22 interviews. We held two hearings in Tomah and two in Washington, DC, to examine what happened at the facility and hear from whistleblowers across the country. On May 31 of this year, we released a 359-page report detailing the findings of our bipartisan investigation. The unfortunate conclusion of our investigation is that with proper disclosure, the tragedies of the Tomah VA could have been prevented.

One of the individuals who blew the whistle on these problems was a psychologist at the Tomah VA named Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick. His portrait stands beside me.

Chris came to Tomah in 2008. He treated veterans, the finest among us, for PTSD, substance abuse, and chronic pain. It didn't take long for him to realize that something was not right. Chris told his family and the union that he thought doctors were overprescribing, overmedicating patients.

The chief of staff of the facility was a doctor who had been known as the Candy Man as far back as 2004 because of the amount of opioids he prescribed for veterans. When the Candy Man

found out that Chris was questioning his prescription practices, Chris was warned to stop. But rather than address Chris's concerns, the VA fired him. Tragically, late on the day that he was terminated, Chris committed suicide.

Chris's managers later said they felt coerced into firing him. Yet no one ever investigated Chris's suicide, and the agency was never held accountable.

Inspectors general are supposed to be the government's watchdogs. Instead of promptly investigating, preparing, and making a report of its investigation public, the VA Office of Inspector General took almost 3 years to prepare a short, extremely flawed report, administratively closed the investigation, and then buried the report.

Then last year, under pressure from news reports and my committee's investigation, the office issued an unsolicited white paper that defended its flawed work and attacked Chris. It even accused him of being a drug dealer. They were retaliating against a dead man.

Sean Kirkpatrick, Chris's brother, summed up the office's actions best. He told our committee: "The haphazard attempt to discredit and slander Chris was absolutely outrageous to us when our brother was merely questioning opioid abuse and concerns that the veterans were not being cared for properly."

Sean Kirkpatrick offered invaluable testimony to our committee and asked us to make commonsense changes to help ensure that what happened to Chris will not happen to someone else.

To address these recommendations and the problems our investigation uncovered, I introduced the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act. Among other things, the bill requires agencies to discipline supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers and mandates training so employees know their rights and supervisors know how to handle complaints. The bill requires the VA to inform its employees about mental health services available to them and review their protocols to address threats from patients. The bill also prohibits VA employees from accessing the private medical records of coworkers when they blow the whistle as a means to retaliate against them.

I ask the full Senate to honor Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick and protect veterans and future whistleblowers by passing these commonsense reforms. It would be particularly special for the Senate to pass the bill today as, sadly, it is the 7-year anniversary of Chris's passing.

This bill received unanimous support of Democrats and Republicans on my committee in December by a vote of 16 to 0. It has the support of every Republican in the Senate. Yet, unfortunately, one or more Democrat Members have been blocking it. I haven't been told who they are, so I have come to the floor to ask that if a Senator objects to this bill, he or she explain why.

Protecting whistleblowers and putting our veterans first shouldn't be a partisan issue. I know it sure hasn't been one for me.

In fact, just yesterday the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act was approved as part of CARA. I was pleased to cosponsor the bill that the junior Senator from my State, a Democrat, introduced. I am not aware of any Republican Member who tried to block its inclusion in CARA, and I was pleased to do whatever I could in the Senate to ensure its passage because it is just good policy and it is just good for our veterans.

I ask my colleagues to give this bill the same respect by judging it based on policy, not politics. Put our veterans first.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 499, S. 2127. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Johnson substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. We, as the Republicans, want to work to improve veterans' benefits. It is so very important. They give a lot, and we don't take good enough care of them.

I understand Senator JOHNSON's legislation. I appreciate that, but there are a number of bipartisan bills to help our veterans that Democrats want to pass as well. We have our bills; he has his bill. So I hope we can work together in the next little bit to come up with a package of bills that would give the Republicans a few of the things they want and give us some of the things we want because the issue before us, as valid as it could be and might be, addresses a very narrow issue the Senator from Wisconsin seeks to address, but a variety of matters are left undone.

I hope we will be in a position to pass the legislation by the Senator from Wisconsin, but we are not there yet. So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, might I ask the majority leader: Are you objecting for yourself or on behalf of others? Further, is there a reason for the objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is not in order to ask questions of someone who does not have the floor.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is extremely disappointing that the minority leader has objected to a commonsense piece of legislation that was passed—again, let me repeat—unanimously out of my committee. Not one

Democratic member of our committee objected to this. It was a good piece of legislation. It is so important.

I am shocked, coming from the private sector, how much retaliation actually occurs within government even though we passed numerous bills protecting whistleblowers. The fact is, had these tragedies been known, had the whistleblowers been protected, had the Office of Inspector General made its investigation reports public, tragedies would have been prevented.

One of the veterans who died at the Tomah VA was Thomas Baer. I was talking to his daughter a week or so after he passed from neglect, as he suffered a couple strokes waiting to be cared for.

She said: Senator, had I only known of the problems at the Tomah VA, I never would have taken my father there. He would be alive today.

All I am asking for is a commonsense bill that again was passed unanimously by my committee. Unfortunately, it is being objected to and will not pass today.

At a moment in time in our history when there are so many divisions in this country, this is one thing we all agree on in this body, to honor the promises to the finest among us, our veterans. This bill honors those promises. This bill would protect the whistleblowers who have the courage to come forward and report problems at the VA health care centers. This bill would help protect veterans in the future.

One of the things I am most proud of as chairman of the committee is I have worked in a very bipartisan fashion. I have forged agreements. I have looked for areas of agreement that unify us. By using that approach, a businessperson's approach, we have reported out of my committee 83 pieces of legislation—this is one of them—and 26 of those have been signed into law, again by finding areas of agreement that unify us as a committee, as a Senate, as a Congress, and as a Nation. This should have been one of those bills.

I sincerely hope we can overcome whatever objection, which was not stated on the floor, and pass this very important piece of whistleblower protection as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I share the regret of my colleague from Wisconsin that our friends across the aisle—the dysfunction that characterized the last Congress, when they were in charge, is unfortunately creeping into this Congress as well, in spite of roughly a year and a half of relatively good productivity by the Congress on a bipartisan basis. To come in and make objections against commonsense ways to protect whistleblowers determined to try to make sure we keep our commitments to our veterans is just—well, it is shameful, and I share the disappointment of my colleagues.

Moments ago, our Democratic colleagues failed another test, a test of whether they care more about American families or about special interest groups. This is what I am talking about.

The test our Democratic colleagues failed is one to see whether they care more about averting these sort of devastating birth defects caused by the Zika virus or whether they care more about the special interest groups that raise money off of legislation designed to solve problems and prevent public health disasters like this. Unfortunately, they made the wrong choice. They failed the test.

This is what the Zika virus can do. This is an example of microcephaly or, basically, shrunken skull. We can imagine what this does to the baby's brain, what this means in terms of trying to provide medical care by a loving mother and father, trying to make sure this baby, no matter how long it may live, has at least as comfortable a life as it can have until it passes away. Of course, the prognosis—the life expectancy of a baby with microcephaly is not good, and that is an understatement.

We know Zika is a preventable disease. We know, with mosquito eradication, we know with proper precautions people can take—not leaving standing water in places where mosquitoes can propagate—if we do our job by providing the adequate funding needed to avert this public health crisis, someday—and, hopefully, not too long, not too far away—we can actually develop a vaccine so pregnant women and women of child-bearing age don't have to worry or live in fear that this might happen to their baby.

Just yesterday, the Harris County Public Health Office in Houston—as the Presiding Officer knows—confirmed that the first baby in Texas was born with Zika-related microcephaly. This tragedy depicted by this photograph is real and it is at our doorstep. This particular case involves a pregnant woman who had traveled to South America, where we know Zika virus is present, but all of our public health officials are telling us it is slowly working its way up from Central and South America and it is literally at our doorstep.

This is not a time to refuse to do our duty and simply coast through the rest of the summer. We are talking about lifelong irreversible problems that take lives and affect families for years to come. Experts across the country that I have visited with, in Galveston at the National Lab, at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, say we need to act, and we need to act now.

They are not alone. It was just last May when our Democratic colleagues asked us to act and to act with urgency, but today they turned down the very money they argued for last May, when they decided to gamble with the lives of children like this instead of protecting them. As I said, they ig-

nored their own calls to get this done quickly, and they have refused to pass urgent measures that would protect our country from a public health crisis.

As I said when I started, this was a test today to see whether our Democratic colleagues cared more about babies like this or special interest groups, and they failed the test. It is as simple as that.

I want to make sure everyone understands how we got here.

Two months ago, a bipartisan agreement was introduced to handle the Zika threat. That was 2 months ago. Senator BLUNT of Missouri and Senator MURRAY of Washington worked together, as we are supposed to do, to come up with a bipartisan compromise, in this case, to an appropriations bill. About a week after it was introduced in this Chamber, it passed overwhelmingly. Not one Democrat opposed the \$1.1 billion appropriations amendment that was attached to the VA-Military Construction appropriations bill. Not one Democrat opposed it because, until recently, they seemed to agree with us that this is a major public health crisis in the making—particularly, as I said, because we expect the mosquito-borne virus to hit the mainland in places like Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and other warm parts of the country. We expect it to hit the U.S. mainland in full force as temperatures continue to rise this summer.

The legislation we passed in the Senate was reconciled, as it is supposed to be, in a conference committee with different legislation passed by the House. That bicameral, bipartisan compromise is what we considered earlier today—after Senate Democrats decided to block it for the first time a few weeks ago. It seems that after they called upon us to pass the bill in May, they have decided in the interim it is not as urgent as they once said.

For months now, Senate Democrats have talked about the need to get this legislation passed to prepare us for the Zika virus, and it was the Democratic leader who said this on May 23, 2016—May 23. It is now July 14. He said:

Instead of gambling with the health and safety of millions of Americans, Republicans should give our nation the money it needs to fight Zika, and they should do it now. Not next month, not in the fall—now.

This is the Democratic leader. When we delivered on his request that he made on May 23, he voted no—even though he and every Senate Democrat voted yes to pass the Senate bill at exactly the same level that this conference report provided.

Then, in an amazing reversal, Senator MURRAY of Washington—who, as I said a moment ago, quite responsibly worked with Senator BLUNT from Missouri to come up with the original amendment funding this Zika prevention effort at \$1.1 billion—she then in effect voted against her own amendment. Back in May, she was singing a different tune. She said:

Families and communities are expecting us to act. Parents are wondering if their babies will be born safe and healthy. In Congress, we should do everything we can to tackle this virus without any further delay.

That was on May 26, 2016. But today, again, this same Senator who said these words on May 26 voted no.

We have to ask ourselves why. What do they consider is more important than stopping this? What could it possibly be? What could be more important, more demanding? What could be a higher priority for these Senate colleagues than voting to fund the research on prevention that would stop this from happening to one more baby in America?

Unfortunately, the hypocrisy we have heard doesn't end there.

On June 20, the senior Senator from New York, the next Democratic leader in waiting, said: "Every day we wait, every day is increasing the risk that we will have problems with Zika." That is not exactly a profound statement, but it is a true statement.

My point is that people are pretty disgusted with what they see here in Washington these days, where rather than trying to find consensus, people really find ways to say no and to block important legislation like this. This is the very definition of dysfunction.

I have to tell you that I am beyond disappointed at the hypocrisy demonstrated by all of our Senate Democrats voting for the funding at the \$1.1 billion level, only now for the second time to vote against this rescue appropriation to prevent this sort of thing from happening. It really is beyond frustrating. It is disgusting.

If there is anything good, any good news in all of this, I would say that, fortunately, months ago the Obama administration finally agreed with Senate Republicans to set aside more than half a billion dollars of unspent funds for the Ebola crisis. There was roughly \$589 million that was set aside and reprogrammed for that purpose, but that is no excuse for failing to act comprehensively as our Senate Democrats have urged us to do time and again.

This is nothing to play around with. This is not a trivial matter. This is a life-altering, life-shortening, devastating birth defect that is preventable. What could be more important? It is our job to send this bill to the President's desk. As long as our Senate Democratic colleagues refuse to do so, as long as they refuse to defend the health and well-being of Americans across this country, as long as they refuse another chance to protect our children from devastating birth defects, there is not much we can do about it.

There is something the American people can do about it, and they can call and they can write to their Senator. They can say: I don't care what your objection is; it better be pretty darned important if you are going to block funding that would prevent this from happening to my baby or to ba-

bies in my family or in my neighborhood.

Health experts across our country need resources to study the virus, to contain the virus, to keep it from spreading, and, hopefully, eventually to develop a vaccine. For our Democratic colleagues to block this legislation again months after saying it was so urgent amounts to tying the hands of our doctors, our local public health officials, and researchers from city to city. Clearly, the responsibility rests with them.

When we see locally transmitted cases of the Zika virus in the United States caused by mosquitoes carrying that virus, the responsibility will be with them for refusing to act in light of the clarion call by public health officials that this is a real public health emergency.

To take this bill hostage is not only hypocritical; it is profoundly irresponsible. I don't know how some of our colleagues can sleep at night knowing that they are putting these babies and their families at risk. There is simply no excuse for blocking this critical funding. As I said, there is a test that was taken today, and our Democratic colleagues once again failed the test.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK IN DALLAS

Mr. President, on a separate and equally somber note, today Senator CRUZ and I submitted a simple resolution that would condemn the horrific attack in Dallas of last week that took the lives of five police officers and wounded several more. It is a small way but an important way that we can honor those whom we have lost, express sympathy to their families, and take a stand against violence and hatred targeting police officers. I hope this Chamber adopts this resolution without delay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TIANA GARRETT AND INGRID HOPE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, for more than a year now, I have come again and again to the Senate floor to highlight some of the remarkable work that is being done by the men and women who work at the Department of Homeland Security for our country. The Department of Homeland Security—created in the wake of the attack on 9/11—today has over 200,000 employees. It was created by combining some 22 Federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, FEMA, and others.

The Department's employees are stationed all over this country. In fact, you can find them all over the world. From keeping drugs from crossing our borders to screening passengers at airports, to safeguarding critical cyber security networks, the men and women at the Department of Homeland Security take on some of the most diverse and challenging jobs of any Federal employee.

Last month I spoke on this floor to highlight the work being done by a

small group of folks who work at the Department of Homeland Security and an agency called the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. With just 125 employees, this office tracks and detects radiological and nuclear materials. They protect Americans from some of the most dangerous materials that are known to humankind.

Another office within the Department of Homeland Security, charged with tracking dangerous yet nearly invisible threats, is the Office of Health Affairs. The Office of Health Affairs leads the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to track and to coordinate the response to potential biological threats from infectious diseases.

In 2014, with the outbreak of Ebola in Africa, the Office of Health Affairs was charged with tracking this deadly virus and studying the potential threat it posed to Americans here at home. This office has had to disseminate that threat information to other Federal agencies and to State and local health officials, as well, as part of our efforts to coordinate and be ready if this disease does make it to our shores.

The Office of Health Affairs also worked with Customs and Border Protection to establish a screening protocol for passengers arriving here from Ebola-impacted countries. The Office of Health Affairs continues to monitor and to keep us prepared for any remaining threats we might face from Ebola. This summer, as we heard, we have yet another challenge on their plates. As we discussed in this Chamber as recently as a few minutes ago, over the past couple of months, the Zika virus has spread explosively throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean. Here at home, we have confirmed more than 1,100 travel-related cases, including more than 320 affected women.

Given the potentially devastating effects that Zika can have, Americans are understandably concerned about how best to protect themselves, their families, or their future families from this previously little-known virus. That is why we are lucky to have the hard-working men and women at the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security. As we speak, the Office of Health Affairs, through its National Biosurveillance Integration Center, is coordinating closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control to track the spread of the disease of the Zika virus.

They are also communicating prevention and detection information to help officials across our country and our partners overseas. Already, the office has produced several Zika-related safety advisories on everything from Zika transmission and prevention to mosquito abatement, to Zika screening procedures. As we reach the height of mosquito season here in the United States, the Office of Health Affairs is actively coordinating response activities with agencies across the Federal

Government and with State and local partners.

Two exceptional employees within the Department and the Office of Health Affairs who are helping to coordinate the Department's Zika preparedness and response activities are LCDR Tiana Garrett and Ingrid Hope. Here she is to my left, LCDR Tiana Garrett.

I am an old Navy guy. People look at this, and in the Navy or in the Coast Guard, this indicates that you are a lieutenant commander, and this indicates what her rank is. She is a lieutenant commander. We call lieutenant commanders in the Navy "commanders," just to give them a compliment. So if I call her Commander Garrett, then I am not messing up. It is the way we do things in the Navy and the way we do things here.

Commander Garrett is an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service—not in the Navy, not in the Coast Guard. She serves in a vitally important agency called the U.S. Public Health Service. As a biosurveillance operations analyst, Commander Garrett is responsible for tracking and providing updates to Federal, State, and local partners on the spread of the Zika virus and other disease outbreaks. Through her work at the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, Commander Garrett provides regular updates to thousands of government officials, representing the Office of Health Affairs in inter-agency calls and presentations and ensuring that others know that the Department of Homeland Security and its Office of Health Affairs is there to help.

Commander Garrett also uses her master's degree in epidemiology and her Ph.D. in cell biology to help develop health advisories to inform the Department of Homeland Security's workforce about Zika virus exposure and how to prevent it. Commander Garrett's colleagues describe her as a true public servant who has dedicated her career and much of her life to ensuring the health and well-being of others.

Another Office of Health Affairs employee within the Department of Homeland Security who is focusing on the Zika virus is this lady right here, and her name is Ingrid Hope. Ingrid is the Acting Deputy Division Director for the Workforce Health and Medical Support Division. Miss Hope is charged with making sure that the Department of Homeland Security's policies protect its own employees from the threats posed by the Zika virus and other infectious diseases. Given the potential for frontline DHS employees to come into contact with this virus and other viruses, it is vitally important that they have the guidance they need to reduce their own risk of exposure.

Just like families in Delaware and around the country, Department of Homeland Security employees have been hearing about the Zika virus on the news. We have heard about it here on the floor today. While you and I can

make changes to our schedule or change our travel plans to limit our exposure, the Department of Homeland Security employees at our ports of entry and along our boarders cannot do that. Their jobs put them in harm's way to protect us against any number of threats to our homeland. The Zika virus is no different.

Miss Hope does invaluable work by informing the Department of Homeland Security employees on how to limit their exposure while on the job. She also makes sure that the workforce knows how to detect the virus and how to keep themselves and their families as safe as possible. Without her important work, our officers on the frontlines will be far less prepared to deal with the potential public health crisis.

As we continue to debate supplemental funding to combat the Zika virus, we cannot forget the hard work needed to turn this funding into results. It is my hope that Congress can reach a bipartisan agreement to provide the Zika funding that is needed. Once that funding is approved, we must all keep in mind that the Zika virus will not simply disappear. Countless man-hours and woman-hours are put into collecting information, analyzing this relatively unknown virus, developing tests, treatments, vaccines, and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

So we say thank you. We say thank you to the men and today especially to the women at the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to think about how much work is done each day—every day—in an effort to make it safer for the rest of us on this planet and also to enable us to stay several steps ahead of this virus and eventually to overcome it.

We cannot let our differences here hinder the work of our dedicated public servants. So to Miss Hope, to Lieutenant Commander Garrett, and to all the men and women at the Office of Health Affairs and the Department of Homeland Security, we say thank you today and every day. Thank you for your selfless and tireless efforts to keep Americans safe and secure from the many threats we face. While you continue to track and keep us informed about these threats and viruses and other organisms that would otherwise go unnoticed, know that your efforts behind-the-scenes have not gone unnoticed. We have noticed. They know they have not gone unappreciated. We appreciate them. I am not the only Senator who appreciates your hard work. I know I speak for all of my colleagues as well.

Thank you and God bless you.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. President, I wish to take a moment before I say a word about the battle against ISIS in other parts of the world. I want to talk about Zika funding for a moment. The administration has asked for \$1.9 billion to combat this disease. I think there has been a

disagreement as to whether it should be that amount, \$1.9 billion or something less.

We held a roundtable several weeks ago on the Zika virus, and we had folks with medical backgrounds and other backgrounds to talk about some of the smartest things we can do to reduce the threat and spread of the Zika virus in this country. I believe there was unanimous agreement that one of the best things we can do is improve access to contraception.

They told us about the cost of providing care for an infant who is born with this dreaded disease. We have heard a lot stories about babies being born with distorted heads and damaged brains. One witness told us the cost of raising that child from birth to the end of their life can be as high as \$10 million per child. If we, through our efforts, can reduce a total of 190 births, the likelihood that some child will be born with this terrible deformity and condition—190 times \$10 million is \$1.9 billion. I think we can avoid even more pregnancies if we find a way to narrow and eliminate our differences and provide the funding that has been requested by the President.

Again, what I think Democrats object to, in terms of paying for the funding for the Zika virus, is this pay-for actually reduces funding for family planning and reduces funding for contraception. What we heard at our roundtable a week or two ago was that is where we should be putting our emphasis and our dollars. I wanted to leave that thought, if I may.

ISIS

Mr. President, I came to the floor a week or two ago, and I brought this map with me. This map is familiar to some and not familiar to others. This is Iraq down here. Iran is over here to the east, and to the west of Iraq, we find Syria. This is Damascus, and Turkey is up here. This is a place I have been to a number of times, and I suspect the Presiding Officer has been here as well. This is the capital of Iraq, which is Baghdad.

What the ISIS folks started about 2 years ago was a very effective drive from this part of the world and heading for Baghdad. They almost reached Baghdad. They were within 20 miles or so of Baghdad. Anbar Province, which is represented here, has three cities, or three towns, that we consider the Sunni Triangle—Fallujah, Ramadi, and a place up here called Tikrit. If you actually connect the lines between those cities, it is called the Sunni Triangle. There are a lot of Sunnis who live in that area.

The area almost due north of Baghdad is one of the largest cities in Iraq called Mosul, and today it is held by ISIS forces. This salmon-colored area here represents areas that are still held by ISIS forces. The area in green, generally to the northeast and southeast, are the areas that have been liberated from ISIS.

When this started 2 years ago, the amount of land controlled by ISIS used

to be the salmon and green colors combined. The amount of land they now control has been reduced by half. In addition to that, the number of people from around the world signing up to fight on behalf of ISIS 2 years ago was 2,000 per month. Last month, there were 200. Two years ago, when ISIS was on a roll and going through Syria and Iraq, they had 10 fighters per month from the United States sign up to fight with ISIS. Last month, there was one.

During the battle for this part of the country against the ISIS forces that were trying to establish their caliphate—their own country—we not only reduced the land mass they held in Iraq by half, we significantly reduced the land they controlled in Syria. We have seen this coalition that we have been a part of actually begin to gel into an effective fighting force.

I spent 5 years of my life as a naval flight officer in the Vietnam war in Southeast Asia, and 18 years after that, as a P-3 aircraft mission commander flying a lot of missions out of the naval air station in an area that is just north of Philadelphia called Willow Grove. I flew on missions all over the world tracking Soviet nuclear submarines. I have some experience with being involved in missions where we had naval aviation assets, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, working and communicating with naval ships, naval submarines, and not just in the United States but with our NATO allies. I will tell you, it is hard to do. We have different procedures and sometimes different languages, and it is difficult to coordinate our operations and our exercises. I think when you put together a coalition with 60 different nations and try to figure out how to work and coordinate what everybody is doing—some are providing air power, which is what we do. We have two carrier groups in this part of the world. One is over here in the Mediterranean Sea and the other is down here in the Persian Gulf. We are launching F-18s and F-16s off of those carriers, and we are still using B-52s, which are literally older than the P-3s I used to fly on in the Navy all those years ago. They are operating out of a variety of bases, including Qatar and other places, to do high-precision bombing against the ISIS forces. We are using drones and A-10 warthogs. We have a lot of air and naval assets, as well as others in the Air Force, and we have helicopters as well.

It is not just us. While we are doing work in the air and providing ground support from the air, we are also providing a lot of help with intelligence, and our allies in this part of the world are helping us with that.

We also have boots on the ground. A lot of the boots on the ground in this part of world for this fight are from Iraq, and there are boots on the ground who frankly fled from ISIS 2 years ago and are now taking the fight to ISIS today.

When Ramadi was retaken, the Iraqi troops led the way. When Fallujah was

taken a couple of weeks ago, the Iraqi troops led the way. When Tikrit was taken several months ago, the Iraqi troops led the way. They were supported by us and other elements of the coalition, but they led the way.

This is Mosul, which is a big city, and right below it is a smaller city called Qayyarah. I think a bunch of our military folks call it Key West. Qayyarah has been taken by the Iraqi forces. It is in the salmon-colored area, but is now in the hands of the Iraqi troops and government. There is a large airbase in Qayyarah. It is about 40 miles from Mosul, and this large airbase will be used to help stage the effort coming up this summer and fall to retake Mosul.

While this is going on in this part of the country, this part of the country al-Raqqa, which is really the spiritual capital, if you will, of the ISIS caliphate. Over here we have a combination of U.S. alliance forces coming in from the northeast and approaching al-Raqqa, and we have Syrian troops, supported by Russian air, going this way, and that is the movement that is underway today.

When people ask how things are going with this fight, I think most people really don't know about the progress being made. A lot of people may think it is like it was 2 years ago, but it is not. A great deal has been accomplished, and during that period of time, not only have we recaptured a lot of land, a lot of folks around the world, including from this country, who wanted to sign up for ISIS, those numbers have dropped dramatically.

In the last 2 years, we also know the FBI has arrested close to 100 individuals here on ISIS-related charges. In cyber space, over 125,000 pro-ISIS Twitter handles have been taken offline, and today for every pro-ISIS Twitter handle, there are 6 anti-ISIS handles that are tweeting to criticize ISIS's actions and challenge its twisted ideology, which has nothing to do with the Muslim faith.

I think even ISIS may now suspect it is losing. Two days ago, a Washington Post story had the headline: "ISIS quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate.'" This area right here. "ISIS quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate.'" The article detailed how ISIS is trying to compensate for losing this battle and territory that was so important 2 years ago. They are trying to compensate for that in ways that undermine their claims of legitimacy and relevance.

As ISIS suffers these defeats, it is important to show them, and us, that despite the horrific terrorist attacks in Orlando, Brussels, Istanbul, and other places, ISIS is losing this war. When ISIS loses on the battlefield, it can no longer credibly use its winner's message that they are a winning team to attract recruits or inspire attacks.

I will close with this. I am a baseball fan. I was in Cleveland less than a month ago for the funeral of one of our

former colleagues, former Gov. George Voinovich. Former Senator and Governor, George Voinovich passed away. He was a wonderful human being.

I went to the funeral. It was literally at the time of the NBA finals, and everywhere I went in Cleveland, I saw people wearing Cleveland Cavalier hats and shirts or paraphernalia to make it clear they were supporting the team.

The Cleveland Indians have a pretty good baseball team. The all-star game was this week, and a number of the Indians played in the game. If you go to Ohio these days, you will see a lot of people wearing Cleveland Indian hats, shirts, and so forth. When a team is winning, it is kind of natural for people to want to be a part of a winning team.

When 2,000 people a month were coming from all over the world to fight with ISIS, ISIS was perceived as a winning team. Two years ago, when 10 Americans per month were going to this part of the world to fight with ISIS, they were depicted and seen as a winning team. They are not a winning team. They are becoming a losing team. To the extent we can continue to make sure they are seen as a losing team and can successfully convey that, at least in this country, I think we reduce the likelihood of people in this country being radicalized, particularly young people, and convinced to do horrific things against Americans in this Nation.

I will close by quoting a fellow named Peter Bergen, who is one of the most knowledgeable people on terrorism and threats we face with these kinds of attacks. I was reminded of his testimony from last month in the Senate. He said that since 9/11, every American who has died in a terrorist attack in this country has died at the hands of an American citizen or someone who is here legally. I will say that again. Peter Bergen reminded us that since 9/11, everybody in this country who has died at the hands of a terrorist attack has been killed by an American citizen or by someone who is here legally in this country. People in this country will be far less inclined to do those kinds of horrific things if we can successfully convey what is going on on this battlefield on the other side of the world. That is why I come to this floor every week or two to remind us of that truth.

With that, I yield the floor to my friend Senator SCOTT, who is yearning to speak, and I wish him well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

OUR AMERICAN FAMILY

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I rise today for the final time this week. This has been a very emotional time for all of us and I believe a pivotal time for our Nation. For me personally, I believe our brightest days are still ahead of us, and I will tell you why.

I am a kid who grew up in a single-parent household, mired in poverty, disillusioned at times, who nearly flunked out of high school, whose life

was changed by a strong, powerful African-American mama and an optimistic, visionary Chick-fil-A operator named John Moniz, who happened to be White.

I think it is incredibly important that while our problems appear in black and white, our solutions are black and white.

My life is a testament to God's love—a mother's love and the love of my mentor. I don't deny that our Nation must have tough, painful conversations—family conversations—but I have experienced what is possible when the family talks, and it is really a cool thing. My life story is a story of second chances—a love story of sorts. It is a dark hour in race relations for America, but I bring you hope—real hope.

In the Deep South, with a provocative racial history, the voters of the First Congressional District of South Carolina—a heavily White district that is the home of the birthplace of the Civil War—elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton. I want to say that one more time. In the heart of the South, the home of the Civil War, a majority White district—these voters elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton over the children of the former U.S. Senator and Presidential candidate Strom Thurmond, and a very popular Governor, Governor Carol Campbell.

I am hopeful because I have experienced the power of a State that has been transformed, the great State of South Carolina. So to my American family, please remain optimistic.

On Monday, I discussed the importance of supporting our law enforcement community. I followed on yesterday by asking all of us to also realize that although the vast majority of our law enforcement officers only seek to protect and to serve, there is still work to be done. There is a lack of trust between the Black community and law enforcement—one that we as an American family must come together and solve. I believe an old saying is a vital part of finding solutions: The only way to know where you are going is to know where you have been.

As I mentioned earlier, part of the rich and sometimes provocative history of America is to point in one of two directions. One is to realize that over the past 240 years we have had our challenges. Our Nation has nearly been pulled apart. But out of the crisis of our past has come the hope for our future. In a relatively short amount of time, we have made, in my estimation, remarkable progress as a nation. And while I will talk about a few of the policies I believe will help us move forward, as well as some things that are more about simply getting us to interact together—to sit down and break bread—the one thing our collective history has taught us is that we must not lose hope.

Yes, there is unresolved pain, suffering, and misery, but this is the greatest Nation on Earth, and we are the greatest Nation on Earth for a rea-

son. Flawed men at our foundation opted to sacrifice themselves on behalf of other flawed men, and together we have done something unique in the history of our planet; that is, simply to create a country that is based on the premise that all men are created equal and that our path forward will be blazed together.

As the Book of Joshua says, we have to recognize our memorial stones so that we have a chance to move forward.

So there is obviously no single solution here. I hope to share a few today, some of which I have talked about before, some of which have broad support in Congress, and some that have nothing to do with the Federal Government. Believe it or not, the government is not the answer to what ails us. The Federal Government can help in places, but the good news is that 300 million Americans, we as a nation, as a family, we are the solution.

The first section of solutions sits in the realm of law enforcement and the Justice Department. Over the past few years, I have talked to a wide variety of officials from across the law enforcement arena, as well as groups like the Urban League and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and many other groups. One solution that seems to be acceptable and almost exciting to so many folks is the notion of body cameras. So I have introduced my Safer Officers and Safer Citizens Act, which provides more resources for police departments to obtain body cameras, as well as to help pay for some of the startup costs for storage units and other requirements.

While we know body cameras cannot be the panacea, we also know this: If an officer is wearing one, we have a much better chance of understanding the situation from all sides. This is why so many law enforcement officers and agencies support using them. It is why we are seeing cities from Los Angeles to New York outfitting their officers with more and more body cameras.

I have also introduced the Walter Scott Notification Act, along with my good friend Senator GRASSLEY. Our system for tracking police shootings is not working for our Nation. It is a patchwork system not built for the 21st century. So, long story short, this bill changes that. Hopefully it fixes the problems. We must know where we are to know where we must go.

I am also glad to see my colleagues in the House, including my very good friend Congressman TREY GOWDY, starting a bipartisan working group to take a hard look at the relationship between the Black community and the law enforcement community. I am very hopeful that a similar group will start in the Senate.

My final point on the Federal level is that I have had the pleasure of working with a group of colleagues—with JOHN CORNYN and many others—working on this notion of criminal justice reform. I am very hopeful that work will con-

tinue to move forward and produce real fruit.

Much of this work that needs to be done won't be done on the Federal level if it is done by the government; it will be done by the local government and the State government.

I have talked to so many in the law enforcement community who talk about the need for more training—specifically, deescalation training, diversity training—and more efforts to get police officers out of their cars and into communities so that they form positive, healthy relationships so that when they are walking down the street, the folks know them. I spoke earlier with Senator LANKFORD, who talked about this notion of getting officers embedded in communities so that the officers know the very people they are talking to. This seems like common sense, and it seems like the right direction. It is a two-way street.

I think the Dallas police chief said it very well. He made the point better than I ever could. He said: If you have issues with policing in your neighborhood, well, we are hiring. That is very important. The Dallas Police Department, along with police departments all across this country, are hiring. He said: We will train you up, and we will put you back into your community.

These are the sorts of real-world solutions and actions that build trust in communities.

The second set of issues we have to tackle—and this is no surprise to anyone who has heard me over the last couple of years—focuses on one specific word. The word is “opportunity.” Too many communities in our Nation feel like they have been left behind, like no one cares, so why should they care? As someone, as I said earlier, who grew up in a single-parent household, I can tell you how strong that sensation to quit becomes, how quickly it grows. When you feel the way I felt in the past, frustration rises and you start seeing the world differently. You don't trust people who aren't from your neighborhood. That is a dangerous recipe.

How do we tackle this problem? The answer, from my estimation, is kind of simple: education, jobs, and investment—the cornerstones of my opportunity agenda.

On the jobs front, I have worked across the aisle with Senators like CORY BOOKER to introduce the LEAP Act, which allows for a very successful South Carolina apprenticeship program to become a national model so that kids can earn and learn at the exact same time. We know not everyone wants to or can afford to go to college, but that doesn't mean they should not be able to find opportunities to provide for their families. By incentivizing apprenticeship programs, we can help folks see their potential, experience their potential, and live fulfilling and profitable lives.

I have also introduced the Investing in Opportunity Act, which seeks to create a path for private sector dollars—

not government dollars but private sector dollars—to be invested in distressed communities. We have 50 million Americans living in distressed communities and over \$2 trillion of unrealized capital gains just sitting there. We should invest those dollars in those communities.

Finally, education. My good friend TREY GOWDY said that education is the closest thing to magic in America. I think he is right. You can look at our incarceration rates, our unemployment rates, our high school dropout rates, our lifetime average incomes, and they all point to one specific area: educational achievement. Trust me, I am the guy who just told you I almost failed out of high school. I know this firsthand. For me, the answer is very clear: Give parents a chance to find the best school for their children, and they will—period.

Finally, solutions on a personal level. Again I turn to Dallas. As I was watching one of the surgeons at Parkland Hospital, he was talking about his feelings toward law enforcement. He was saying that he was struggling the night after the shooting. He had worked all night trying to save the lives of these officers, and he was tossing and turning, torn up on the inside that he could not save their lives. I can't imagine how he felt. I can't—Dr. BARRASSO, a surgeon—I can't imagine how he felt, trying to save the lives of men and women who were willing to give their lives for others. I can't imagine it. He is an African-American man. As he woke up and prepared for the next day, he struggled. He struggled with his personal relationship and his personal concerns with law enforcement.

What is he doing? I think this is instructive for all of us. He said he is making sure his daughter sees him buying lunch for officers and sees them interacting in a friendly way because he doesn't want to pass on to his daughter any sense of fear of law enforcement, but respect, appreciation, and affection for the men and women who wear the uniform.

I have seen it in my hometown of North Charleston, SC. It is an amazing experience. On Christmas morning, dozens of officers with dozens of volunteers show up at city hall, and at 6 o'clock in the morning, these guys and gals go door-to-door in the poorest neighborhoods in North Charleston. I have been there with them once or twice. They knock at the door, and they look into the eyes of a little girl or a little boy who is expecting nothing for Christmas, and they hand that child a toy.

There are simple ways to bridge the divide between the African-American community and other poor communities and law enforcement. There are powerful ways, simple ways, to make a difference. As I have said a couple of times, the government cannot make us get along. We have seen it tried before. It simply cannot force you and me to take the leap of faith to try to trust again.

The notion of America is really built on the foundation of faith—faith in each other, faith in a higher calling. If we are to mend the relationships in our family, we will have to do so by looking into each other's eyes, walking in each other's shoes, and listening—not waiting to talk, but listening—listening, not only with your head, but listening with your heart so that you hear and feel the pain and the challenges of others.

This is a simple commandment from God's Word, Matthew 22:39, to love your neighbor as yourself. This is not simply a commandment, however. This requires action. You have to do something.

TREY GOWDY, a Congressman from South Carolina, and I are going to bring pastors and law enforcement officials together in South Carolina so that we can have an honest, sometimes painful conversation about how to move forward together.

In Charleston County I had a chance to speak with Sheriff Al Cannon, a longtime sheriff of Charleston. He simply said that both sides have to come together because this is not a one-sided issue.

Senator LANKFORD and I are discussing a new idea called Solution Sunday, a wonderful idea that Senator LANKFORD shared with me earlier this week, and we will talk about that more in the coming weeks, but the premise of the idea is you have to do more than just go to church together. We as a nation aren't even doing that very well. But we have to eat together and do projects together. So we will hear more about the exciting idea of Solution Sunday in the upcoming weeks.

I will continue to reach out to my colleagues and my friends who may not look like me, who may have a different philosophy than I do, so I can understand their hopes, their dreams, and their frustrations because listening is so important. As we look around our Nation, it appears to me that we haven't done nearly enough listening to each other.

In closing, I hope we all remember that we have survived turbulent times before: the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, 1968, and in South Carolina, 2015. I still marvel at how our State responded to the shootings at Mother Emanuel—the power of forgiveness, the power of love conquering hate.

Earlier this year, I lost my grandfather. I haven't really talked about it publicly. He was 94 years old and meant so much to me. This was a man born in Salley, SC, in 1921. I can only imagine what he had seen in South Carolina. I can only imagine the life, the challenges, the struggles of an African-American male in the Deep South in 1921, 1931, and the 1940s. He didn't finish elementary school. He had to pick cotton. He never learned to read. He eventually got a job at the Port of Charleston—a job that, while it didn't give us much in the way of tangible re-

sources, provided an immeasurable lifeline for our family.

This is a story that has been repeated generation after generation in this country. I have heard the story from a very different frame from my good friend MARCO RUBIO. It is a story of success. It is a story of significance. It is a story of America.

My grandfather's grandson, yours truly, is a U.S. Senator. My brother, another grandson, rose to the rank of command sergeant major in the U.S. Army. My nephew, his great grandson, has graduated from Georgia Tech, Duke University, and now is on his way to Emory for medical school. That is the beauty of America—from cotton to Congress in one lifetime.

We are a beautiful Nation. We are an amazing family. Families fight sometimes. That is OK. We must remember that we are one single family. We can all get to where we are going, we must get to where we are going, and we will get there together.

I want one more time to slow down, pause, and remember the sacrifices made by five Dallas police officers, the tragedies in Baton Rouge and Minnesota.

We have been through so much, but a bright future is still there for our taking. Let's make sure we grab it together.

Let me just say thank you to my staff, who worked very hard all week long to make sure we were prepared for these presentations, and I want to specifically thank my communications director Sean Smith, who helped put most of these words together, helped us work through the emotions, the challenges, and how to frame the conversation that we believe America must have. As my communications director, who happens to be a White guy, and my chief of staff who happens to be an African-American female—as we worked together, it reminded me that in the midst of our struggles, our challenges, and our difficulties, I depend on a rainbow coalition, a patchwork quilt, to present my thoughts, my heart to America.

We are America. We are Americans. God has blessed the United States of America.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I haven't watched the last three speeches in detail of my esteemed colleague from South Carolina, but I have watched good parts of them. I am tremendously impressed by his personal experiences, his empathy for what is going on in America today, and his positive attitude, which I admire very much.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK IN DALLAS AND RECOGNIZING THE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

Today, before we adjourn, the Senate will unanimously adopt a resolution condemning last week's violent attack in Dallas. This attack was on the police officers in the Dallas community, and other law enforcement agencies

were also targeted. The people killed were Dallas police officers.

We were all devastated by this murderous rampage that claimed the lives of five officers and wounded nine other police officers. Every Member of the Senate stands with the Dallas Police Department, and we have been so impressed with the chief of police. We stand with the Dallas Police Department, the victims, their families, and the brave men and women who serve the people of Dallas.

I support this resolution because the least we can do in the Senate is honor these heroes. I support this resolution because the least we can do in the Senate is to recognize the sacrifices made, much of it on national television.

I think it is important that we also acknowledge the peaceful protesters who were marching that day for justice and an end to violence. They were calling for—and doing it in a peaceful manner—the end to the brutality and hostility that has taken the lives of Americans of all backgrounds but disproportionately people of color.

In the days leading up to the rally in Dallas, as we heard from my friend from South Carolina, two men were killed: Alton Sterling of Baton Rouge, LA, and Philando Castile of St. Paul, MN.

The young man in Louisiana was held down by two police officers and then killed. Just the next day, a man was killed in his car with his fiancée and her 4-year-old daughter there, listening and watching. Our friends in the African-American community demand recognition that their lives are valued and respected, as everyone's life should be. It should be done equally.

It was my suggestion that we add just a word or two to the resolution to at least recognize the purpose of the peaceful demonstrators in this resolution. There was a decision made that that not be a part of the resolution, and I accept that, but I wanted to make sure we recognize these peaceful protesters and why they were there.

There are many victims here, be they law enforcement officers, innocent people, innocent people of color. They all deserve to be acknowledged. As has been said by a number of people here over the last few days, you can't sweep these problems that we have under the rug.

I thought it was tremendous that the Senator from South Carolina talked about three things we should all agree on: body cameras, data collection—which is a code word for profiling—and of course something with the criminal justice system that we are so close to having on this floor that we could vote on. It is bipartisan. It should be done. So I appreciate very much the Senator from South Carolina mentioning these three things, and I think they are certainly worth mentioning again.

We can support the police officers of America, the men and women, and mourn those who have fallen and honor their bravery while also acknowledging

that we must do better in preventing the senseless killings of people of color.

I echo President Obama's words from the memorial service in Dallas. He must be recognized for these great words when he said: "Find the character, as Americans, to open our hearts to each other."

We need to do that. If we do, we can find empathy for each other, the empathy to understand the challenges law enforcement faces every day, and the empathy to understand the frustration and anger within the communities of color across our Nation.

I look forward to the resolution being adopted. It is something the Senate should be proud of.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MEGABYTE ACT OF 2016

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 4904, the Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016, and that is an acronym for the MEGABYTE Act.

H.R. 4904 is the House companion to a piece of legislation Senator GARY PETERS and I introduced, S. 2340. I would like to thank Senator PETERS for being the lead cosponsor of the Senate version of the MEGABYTE Act and thank Senator THAD COCHRAN for cosponsoring it. S. 2340 passed the Senate by voice vote last week.

My friends in the House of Representatives—Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT, Representative WILL HURD, Representative STEVE RUSSELL, and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS—are the lead sponsors of H.R. 4904. It passed the House on June 7, 2016, by a vote of 366 to 0.

The MEGABYTE Act reforms the Federal Government's management of information technology software licensing. The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, or the GAO, found that implementing oversight and management policies of Federal software licenses saved a single agency 181 million taxpayer dollars per year.

If implemented, the MEGABYTE Act could yield billions in savings across the Federal Government. Now, the Federal Government spends \$82 billion a year on information technology. In 2015, for example, for the second year in a row, GAO listed IT software license management as a top priority for its annual duplication report. The GAO stated that the executive branch "does not have adequate policies for managing software licenses." Of the 24 major Federal agencies, only 2 have implemented comprehensive and clear management policies of Federal software licenses. Furthermore, none of the 24 major Federal agencies have fully implemented all 5 industry-best practices recommended by the GAO.

The MEGABYTE Act saves taxpayer dollars and cuts government waste through the following actions:

The Office of Management and Budget Director shall issue a directive requiring that the chief information officer of each executive agency is to identify clear roles, responsibilities, and central oversight authority within the agency for managing enterprise software license agreements and commercial software licenses.

Agencies will also establish a comprehensive inventory, including 80 percent of software licensing spending and enterprise licenses in the agency.

They shall regularly track and maintain software licenses to assist the executive agency in implementing decisions throughout the software license management lifecycle.

They shall analyze software usage and other data to make cost-effective decisions. I notice that every now and then, someone has a database software package and they never use the database. We the taxpayer can save that money.

They should provide training relevant to software license management and establish goals and objectives of the software license management program of the agency.

Lastly, I will mention that they should consider the software license management lifecycle phases—including the requisition, reception, deployment, maintenance, retirement, and disposal phases—to implement effective decisionmaking and incorporate existing standards, processes, and metrics.

Congress has the responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively.

For all the reasons stated above, I offer my strong support for the MEGABYTE Act and urge the Senate to pass H.R. 4904, sending it to the President's desk.

With that said, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4904 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4904) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4904) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING THE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, let me start today by commending the remarks by the junior Senator from South Carolina. Throughout this week and several—I guess it is now three times this week—his words and his passion have both inspired us and informed us, but I think he has also challenged all of us to do more for our country. I am grateful that I was here for his remarks today. I commend him for those words and for what he talked about on the floor today.

STORM ACT

Mr. President, 3 months ago I spoke on the floor to highlight the need to expand our arsenal of financial measures against the terrorist group ISIS, which we know is also known as ISIL and known by other names or acronyms. I will use the acronym “ISIS.” I said at that time that these agents of hate, violence, and chaos could be significantly diminished by attacks on their finances.

Not long after that, the President signed into law the bipartisan Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, which I sponsored here in the Senate, which will undermine ISIS’s ability and efforts to pillage antiquities in Iraq and Syria for profit. But we need to keep up the pressure on this issue on ISIS.

All terrorist organizations, of course, need resources to survive, and this is a vulnerability we must fully exploit. Dismantling the financial networks that support terrorism is a critical part of our mission to protect the United States of America. ISIS is the best example of how pressing the need is today.

Militarily, ISIS continues to destabilize Iraq and Syria at the expense of millions of civilians who are caught in the crossfire. It continues to cultivate affiliates in northern and western Africa, central Asia, and other parts of the Middle East. It continues to sow the seeds of terror in neighboring countries such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia and further afield—in Europe, Africa, and, of course, here in the United States. Many thousands of innocent lives have been tragically and unjustly lost in these attacks.

Financially, ISIS relies on a variety of revenue streams. We must attack all of them.

U.S. and coalition airpower is disabling oil refineries and stopping smuggling convoys in their tracks. U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Peter

Gersten, deputy commander of the Combined Joint Air Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, reported on April 26 of this year that “ISIS’s ability to finance their war through oil refineries has been destroyed.” That is good news, but we have a lot more to do. As a result, ISIS is cutting fighters’ salaries and it is plundering everything and anything it can reach. It is looting banks, kidnapping for ransom, and extorting money directly from the 8 million people caught in its territory. According to the Center for Analysis of Terrorism, such extortion now accounts for more than one-third of the income of ISIS.

Tough sanctions have helped curtail ISIS’s ability to access the international banking system, but ISIS is using informal channels to receive and spend money off the grid. Nonmonetary transfer systems and informal exchange houses operating across multiple countries have been less vulnerable to traditional sanctions.

As ISIS adapts, so must the United States. The Department of the Treasury has been relentless in identifying and blacklisting individuals and entities that finance terror. I applaud them for this work. Yet, because terrorist groups exploit financial jurisdictions to channel their ill-gotten gains, the United States cannot effectively stop terrorist financiers by itself; our coalition partners must join this fight. We cannot afford weak links in this chain.

In February of this year, I visited Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Qatar to conduct oversight of our terrorism finance strategy. I found that the events of the last 2 years have brought this issue of terrorism financing into sharper focus for the countries in the region.

While many of our coalition partners are taking steps in the right direction, much more work needs to be done to stem this tide. We need to see more investigations turn into arrests, more prosecutions, and more sentencing that take terrorist financiers off the streets. As with nuclear nonproliferation, we need to build and reinforce the international architecture that governs international cooperation to stop terrorist financiers.

Last week, Senator ISAKSON and I introduced the STORM Act, the Stop Terrorist Operational Resources and Money Act. This act authorizes a new designation called “jurisdiction of terrorism financing concern” if a country is not doing enough to stop terrorist financiers. Once designated by the United States of America—in fact, once designated by the President of the United States of America—that country would face significant penalties that include the cessation of aid and the suspension of arms sales. To avoid the penalty, the country can enter into a technical assistance agreement with the United States to remediate the problem that led to its designation.

The STORM Act also sanctions foreign financial institutions that make deals on behalf of ISIS or launder

money for ISIS. Like this Chamber’s recent action to sanction foreign banks that deal with Hezbollah, we must ensure that no part of the international banking system is left open to ISIS. We expect overseas banks to join with us by using all of the tools at their disposal to make certain they are not unwittingly or negligently acting for ISIS. Banks that fail to do so have no right to do business with the United States of America.

The STORM Act will be a powerful tool in the President’s arsenal and future Presidents’ arsenals to starve terrorist groups of the resources they need to survive. I thank Senator ISAKSON for his original cosponsorship of this important legislation.

It is essential that we send it through the Foreign Relations Committee, through Congress—both House and Senate—and to the President’s desk for signature as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 2 days ago, five police officers were shot and killed and others were very seriously wounded in the middle of a rally trying to bring people together, trying to allow Americans to be able to have what many call our “conversation on race.”

As several have mentioned on this floor before about my friend the junior Senator from South Carolina, TIM SCOTT—Senator SCOTT commented on race all this week, as have several others on this floor who have talked about it. I hear many people in my own State and in the conversations I have had around my State speak about issues of race, and I keep hearing this ongoing statement: We need to have a greater conversation about race.

Somewhat, I think, we as a nation are confused about how this actually gets resolved in some ways. So I wanted to make a quick comment and a challenge to my fellow Senators and others who may be around. The challenge is very straightforward and simple. We talk about a conversation on race as if it is something that can happen nationally at a rally, at a protest, in the media, among leaders. It is not really how America solves issues and problems. We solve it around dinner tables. That has always been the place that we have resolved issues as a nation. It is our families who sit down together and get a chance to talk it out.

Over the past week, I have had this reoccurring conversation with people—just a simple question: Have you ever had a family of another race sit down with your family for dinner at your home? Have you ever invited another family of another race to your home for dinner?

That doesn’t seem like a challenging question, but I have been amazed at the number of people I have posed that question to who have looked at me, who have hesitated, and said: Of course, I have.

Then I said: When?

They had to hesitate and think and said: No, I don't think, really, that has ever happened. I have people I work with, people I interact with, play sports with, go to school with, and live in my neighborhood, but I don't think I have ever had a family of a different race than mine over for dinner.

Here is my simple challenge to us. If we are going to have a conversation about race, maybe the conversation should start with each of our families at our dinner tables. It is what Senator SCOTT mentioned earlier. I have laid out a challenge, just a simple statement, what I call Solution Sundays. If you are going to be part of this solution in America, maybe on a Sunday for lunch or for dinner, invite another family over of another race just to sit and have conversation. Everybody can put their feet under the same table and develop a friendship and a relationship.

Every person can do that. Every person can be a part of the solution. Every person in our country can start to move that conversation a little farther. It is part of who we are.

We don't solve things based on a vote in America, we solve things around our dinner table.

I would challenge every American to invite someone from another race to their home, just sit and have Sunday lunch together and watch and begin to see what happens in our Nation.

IRAN

Mr. President, today is also an anniversary day. Today is happy birthday to the JCPOA, what is commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal. Happy birthday, you are 1-year old today.

In many ways we have seen some progress in some areas. Iran does have fewer centrifuges now than what they had a year ago. Iran has allowed the inspectors to come into some locations. That is a positive thing. Iran has allowed engagement in some of their purchasing of some of their nuclear materials. That is a positive thing, and I am grateful for the progress.

I hope that progress continues, but at this point it is just a hope. Quite frankly, today, for me, recognizing the 1-year birthday of the Iran nuclear deal is a reminder to the administration that America and the Congress have not forgotten that this is a deal that has to be implemented with great strength, because the issues that we face in relationship with Iran are a multitude.

Let me just highlight a few things just to be able to talk through some of the issues that I have seen and things that are still coming, things that have happened in the past year and things that are still to come.

For instance, in the past year the international community has released around \$100 billion to Iran. So \$100 billion has flown back to them. What has happened in that time period? Well, they have recapitalized their banks. They have recapitalized in several areas they have needed in their econ-

omy, but they have also increased their military defense spending by 90 percent in the past year. That flood of money has accelerated the Iranian military buildup. We have actually contributed to that as Americans.

About a month or so after and shortly connected to the Iran nuclear deal being announced and going through the process, Iran released several folks who were considered hostages by the Americans—Americans jailed in Iran. They released those individuals and shortly thereafter the administration released \$1.7 billion to Iran from the Judgment Fund, saying this was part of the return from some of the money that was required from Iran from 1979 in the fall of the Shah—\$1.7 billion.

Interestingly enough, months later, Iran, in its movement, increased its military spending exactly \$1.7 billion, and the Iranians announced those two were connected. American tax dollars directly funded \$1.7 billion of Iranian military buildup.

I wish I could even stop there. Just months ago, the administration announced that we were going to start purchasing heavy water from Iran.

You see, we don't produce our own heavy water. Heavy water is used in development of nuclear materials for a nuclear weapon, but it is also used in research. The United States doesn't produce our own heavy water. We purchase it from Canada mostly.

But instead, this time we purchased nuclear water for over \$8 million from Iran. So we didn't purchase from our ally, but we purchased from Iran.

I wish I could tell you that is all it is, but this is what Secretary Moniz announced with this statement upon the purchase of that heavy water from Iran:

The idea is: OK, we tested it, it's perfectly good heavy water. It meets spec. We'll buy a little of this.

He said:

That will be a statement to the world: "You want to buy heavy water from Iran, you can buy heavy water from Iran. It's been done. Even the United States did it."

In the past year we have moved from sanctions on Iran to being Iran's salesman, to helping them sell heavy water to the world, telling them: Don't buy from our allies in Canada anymore. We tested the Iranian water, and we like it. You should buy that.

That is a pretty big shift in the last year, to move from "we have sanctions on you as a terrorist nation" to "we are your salesmen." People of the world should start buying their heavy nuclear water from Iran.

That is all just in the past year. I wish I could stop, but many people have noticed, if they are watching the media at all, that Iran has launched multiple test missiles in the past several months. On October 10, they launched a missile with an 800-mile range. On November 21, they launched another long-range missile. On March 8 and March 9, they launched other missiles as test missiles.

All of these are in violation of the missile test treaty ban that has been in place for years on Iran. What has been done so far to be able to sanction back down sanctions? Nada.

They are recapitalizing their military. They are testing new missiles that are capable of carrying nuclear armaments. They are continuing to pursue nuclear materials in opposition to the direct agreement.

Just days ago, Germany released a long report from their domestic intelligence agency, which is their equivalent of our FBI. They released a statement saying the findings by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution—that is their FBI—in a 317-page report said they had found that Iran had a clandestine effort to seek illicit nuclear technology and equipment from German companies at what is even, by international standards, a quantitatively and actively high level.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel underscored the findings in a statement to Parliament saying: Iran violated the U.N. Security Council's anti-missile development regulations, seeking nuclear materials in a quantitatively high level from German companies in a clandestine way. Angela Merkel is saying they are continuing to press on the missile side of things. They are continuing to advance.

At the same time, out in plain sight, Iran has purchased the S-300 missile defense system from Russia. They continue to have a tremendous number of religious- and human-rights-documented prisoners in Iran. There are an estimated 821 individuals right now. By the way, some of those also are Americans who are currently imprisoned in Iran right now—some of them just for the practice of a minority faith.

Just weeks ago, I asked DNI Clapper, the President's Director of National Intelligence: What has changed in Iran's being the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world in the last year?

His response to me was this: Nothing. They are still advancing against Bahrain to have a coup. They are still funding the civil war and coup that is happening in Yemen. They are still funding Hezbollah. They are still proping up Assad. In fact, I have increased their funding levels there.

All of those things still continue to advance, just with more money and with more supplies now than what they had in the past.

It is the 1-year birthday of the Iran nuclear deal. Iran is a rising power in the region and continues to advance toward nuclear technology. So what are we going to do about it?

One is that we need to continue to remind everyone who is out there that this is a very serious threat. Iran with a nuclear weapon is completely unacceptable in this world. The largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world should not have nuclear weapons. The world community should at least agree on that.

I have pushed on several areas. I authored a deal dealing with its resolution, in fact, detailing when the administration should do snapbacks. The administration has been very vague about when they will actually snap back sanctions. So we took their deal, which they had, went through it in great detail, put it in technical language, and put it in a resolution to clearly state: Here are the boundaries of this resolution so it has no fuzzy gray areas.

Through an appropriations amendment, we have also demanded that we get greater detail of the \$1.7 billion in transfer money from the Judgment Fund that was transferred to Iran. Currently, we have almost no detail on that other than that we know Iran used it for its military development because they announced that and put that out.

Third, I have worked with Senator FISCHER from Nebraska creating a Judgment Fund transparency piece so that we will never again transfer American dollars to any state sponsor of terrorism around the world. Couldn't we have that as minimum criteria—that we will not spend the hard-earned tax dollars of Americans to help supply the military requirements of a larger state sponsor of terrorism?

I cosponsored a bill with Senator RUBIO which prohibits giving Ex-Im financing to any company in Iran or to Iran in general to make sure that Iran is not coming, again, to the American taxpayer to be able to get some sort of subsidies to be able to do that.

And as I have mentioned before, we will continue to remind the administration that no one is forgetting because we do not have the option of losing track of a nuclear Iran.

Happy birthday to the Iran nuclear deal. I hope that in the years ahead, we can say that we have a non-nuclear power Iran, but I will tell you that based on what has happened in the past year, I remain incredibly skeptical of that.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need to pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, also known as WRDA. Despite strong, bipartisan support, the Senate has yet to take a vote on a commonsense, necessary piece of legislation.

Frankly, I am extremely disappointed. WRDA will help communities across the Nation who need to repair, expand, or modernize their water infrastructure. The bill invests in the Nation's ports and inland waterways to improve commerce, and it moves us toward major upgrades to locks and dams in places such as the Upper Mississippi River System.

WRDA will improve flood protection in order to better safeguard communities from damage and will restore ecosystems and promote public access for recreation.

This legislation empowers local partners in water resource project implementation and improves the approval process for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.

WRDA promotes innovative technologies to address water resource challenges, including additional support to drought-stricken communities.

This bill also makes essential investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including emergency assistance to communities facing water contamination, such as Flint, MI.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to again meet with families from Flint.

The devastating water crisis continues to have an unimaginable impact on the children and families there. I was heartbroken to hear more about some of their daily struggles, but I was also inspired by their resiliency.

The provisions included in the WRDA bill will help ensure that Flint residents will have the resources and support necessary to address this ongoing and catastrophic tragedy. WRDA will help Flint residents, but it will also help communities all across our country with drinking water and infrastructure challenges. It will modernize the State Revolving Loan Fund Programs and capitalize the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program—also known as WIFIA—a new, low-interest financing mechanism to fund large-dollar-value infrastructure projects all across our Nation.

The many benefits of the WRDA bill—from drinking water protections to waterway improvements, to water body restoration—is why it enjoys broad, diverse support. Over 100 stakeholder organizations have called on the Senate to bring WRDA to the floor. These groups include: the American Society of Civil Engineers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Nature Conservancy, United Steelworkers, National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Our dedicated partners across the aisle are also ready to move on this important bipartisan piece of legislation. Senator INHOFE recently joined 28—28 of his Republican colleagues on a letter to the Senate Republican leadership calling for a vote. The Environmental and Public Works Committee passed the Water Resources Development Act with strong, overwhelming bipartisan support—a vote of 19 to 1.

This commonsense bill is ready for a vote in the Senate. Communities across our country—including the families of Flint—are ready and waiting for us to act. I truly hope the WRDA bill can be prioritized for action on the floor when we return in September. We simply must act, and we must act as quickly as possible.

STARTUP COMPANIES

Mr. President, when we think about fast-growing startup companies, we

might think about Silicon Valley, Boston, or Boulder. While these cities certainly have very vibrant startup ecosystems, innovative startups and small businesses are being founded and are growing across the United States, including my home State of Michigan. In each of our States, there are hard-working entrepreneurs who have established job-creating startups. These dynamic companies act as entrepreneurial leaders, innovators, and job creators within our communities. Industries, including retail, health care, entertainment, transportation, and education are being revolutionized and reshaped by entrepreneurs in our local communities. They are reimagining the future by using technology to solve problems and create innovative products and services.

According to the Kauffman Foundation, startups are a major force for job creation in the United States. Startups under 1 year old create about 2 million jobs per year, accounting for 20 percent of gross job creation, though they only represent 8 percent of the firms in this country.

Despite the fact that new startups are vital to our country's economic and job growth, many members of our community may not know these innovative companies exist, and many startup companies may not know where to access the resources to help their companies succeed.

In 2013, I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues—including Congressmen POLIS and ISSA—to create the first annual Startup Day Across America to bring attention to startups throughout Michigan and across the United States. That year, I had the opportunity to visit Start Garden—a combined venture capital fund and shared startup workspace in Grand Rapids—with Congressmen HUIZENGA and AMASH, where we heard firsthand about the exciting new businesses being funded in Western Michigan.

In 2014, I met with a group of entrepreneurs at the Madison Building in Detroit, home to startups backed by Detroit Venture Partners. I spoke with Paul Glomski, the CEO of Detroit Labs.

Founded in 2011 with just four employees, Detroit Labs now has upward of 100 people working for them, building cutting-edge technology in downtown Detroit. They dream up, design, and build mobile apps and have made them for General Motors, Domino's Pizza, Kimberly-Clark, DTE Energy, and many others. They also provide a paid apprenticeship program that teaches hard-working Michiganders how to code and connects them to jobs upon completion of the program.

Startups are not just about apps and tech, though. I also visited Ponyride, a coworking space in Corktown, where I met Eric Yelsma, founder of Detroit Denim. He and his team are making high-quality jeans in Detroit and shipping them across the country.

In 2015, I visited startups in Traverse City, where I heard about the growing

startup and venture capital ecosystems in Northern Michigan that are pulling in talent from across the Midwest, including Cherry Capital Foods, a young company that works with Michigan farmers to help them find new customers.

This year, I have teamed up with Senators WARNER, DAINES, and SCOTT to encourage our colleagues to visit a startup anywhere in their home State during the week of August 4. Like me, they know startups are taking root across the Nation—in Richmond, VA, Bozeman, MT, Charleston, SC, Kalamazoo, MI, and other communities.

In fact, Michigan is one of the fastest growing venture capital communities in the Nation, a critical asset that will help us become the startup capital of the Midwest. We have world-class colleges and universities, more engineers than any part of the country, and an infrastructure to export not just nationally but all across the globe.

While I am focused on connecting talented Michigan entrepreneurs to the capital they need to grow and succeed, I will also continue working with my colleagues on Federal policies that will support these important startups and small businesses. That means strong science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, or STEAM, education, along with expanding efforts to encourage our Nation's students to learn how to code. Even basic programming skills are incredibly marketable, not just among tech startups but throughout the entire economy.

We also need to make sure startups are able to compete on a level playing field on the Internet and have access to fast, affordable broadband no matter where you live. Additionally, we must work together to help entrepreneurs master challenges and impediments that stand in their way as they seek to establish their firms and to create jobs. Startups play a key role in economic growth, and we have to do more to help them.

A recent report from the Economic Innovation Group found that since the end of the recent recession, new firms have increased by only 2.3 percent and are concentrated in only 25 percent of U.S. counties, especially in dense, higher population areas. We have to ensure that every American community has the opportunity to experience the economic benefits new business establishments bring. We have to ensure that every American community has the requisite tools to support entrepreneurs as they turn their ideas into action, transforming their neighborhoods and the economic trajectories of their neighborhoods in the process.

Ultimately, success for any company comes down to matching talent with capital. Small businesses and startups now have a variety of sources of capital to expand and create jobs: traditional bank loans, for example, SBA loans including the 7(a) Loan Program I have championed in the past, State-backed loans through the Michigan Economic

Development Corporation, facilitated by the State Small Business Credit Initiative, venture capital, friends or family, and now even crowdfunding.

Just as there are a number of factors that contribute to a vibrant startup ecosystem, there will be a wide array of stakeholders, decisions, and industries that will contribute to shaping Michigan's future economy. I am committed to ensuring that our growing startup community will be a fixture of creativity, innovation, and job creation for decades to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN JEFF KUSS AND
RECOGNIZING THE BLUE ANGELS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, with all that has occurred in our country over the past few weeks, I wanted to take a moment to bring everyone's attention to something that had a profound impact in my home State of Florida and something all Americans should reflect on.

This weekend, the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron—most famously known as the Blue Angels—will take to the skies over Pensacola for the Pensacola Beach Air Show. It will be their first air show appearance in Florida since that fateful day of June 2, when they lost Capt. Jeff Kuss, a U.S. Marine Corps Aviator, and the No. 6 airplane in the Blue Angels lineup.

Captain Kuss, simply put, was an American hero. Like all Blue Angels pilots and the men and women who support the Blue Angels mission, Captain Kuss was the very best of what our military and our Nation has to offer. He was a war hero. He served our country proudly over hostile skies in Afghanistan. He was a decorated aviator who earned the Strike Flight Air Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during his time with the Corps. I commend the Marine Corps for training such a skilled aviator, as well as Naval Air Station Pensacola, where he first started flying in 2007.

Captain Kuss was a hometown hero, a local boy from Durango, CO, who graduated from Durango High School and attended Fort Lewis College. He fulfilled a lifelong dream by performing a flyover with his teammates over Super Bowl 50 and then watched his Denver Broncos win their third Super Bowl championship.

Captain Kuss was a hero in his own home. A loving son to his parents Janet and Michael, a devoted husband to his wife Christina, and loving father to his two young children, Calvin and Sloane.

The same attributes that Captain Kuss demonstrated throughout his life—service, sacrifice, loyalty, faith, devotion—they were all present in his final moments as well. He could have ejected, but instead he stayed with his plane and steered it away from a more populated area to spare any additional loss of life.

I know that in our country today there is ample reason for pessimism. We hear plenty from various voices about what is wrong with our country, but let's take a moment to reflect on the life of Capt. Jeff Kuss and the Blue Angels because they are everything that is right about our country. The love they share for one another, the sacrifices they make in service to our Nation, and the devotion they have to their calling represents the very best of the American spirit.

The rumble of those engines over the skies of Pensacola this weekend will not just be a resumption of their duties as aviators and military professionals; it will be a tribute—a tribute to Captain Kuss and the life he spent doing what he loved.

To the people of Pensacola, the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" and the place the Blue Angels call home, the Blues are their team. Think about whatever major sports team you have in your hometown and the love the community gives those professional or college athletes who compete on national television. It pales in comparison to the bond the people of Pensacola have to their home team, the Blue Angels.

Our State and the community in Pensacola took the loss of Captain Kuss very hard. To the people who saw him around town, he was Jeff, a friend, a neighbor, and someone to be proud of. And true to the spirit of Pensacola, the community has rallied to provide comfort to Captain Kuss's teammates and to his family.

I am so proud my home State is home to the Blues. I am proud Pensacola continues to embrace the Blues and to make every member of the Blue Angels family a part of the Pensacola family. I am proud the Blues will return to the Pensacola Beach Air Show this weekend, and I am proud the United States has a military made up of extraordinary Americans like Capt. Jeff Kuss.

So I ask all Americans to keep Captain Kuss and his family in your prayers. Thank God for him, for our military men and women and families who sacrifice alongside them, and for the freedom they risk their lives to preserve. I ask that God bless Captain Kuss and his family and God bless the Blue Angels as they fly this weekend and in the weeks, months, and years to come.

CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

Mr. President, I recently addressed the Senate and our Nation about truly a disaster that is wreaking havoc on my home State of Florida. It is a thick and putrid algal bloom known as the blue-green algae that has appeared along large stretches of the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.

This is happening because nutrient-rich water—basically, water that has things in it like fertilizer—is running into Lake Okeechobee from north of that lake, which is the lake in the center of our State. Historically, that water sat in Lake Okeechobee but

would run southward through the Everglades, but with development and canal systems and so forth, that all stopped.

So now that water sits in the lake, and it is held back by the Herbert Hoover Dike, which was put in place to prevent flooding and the loss of lives of those who live around Lake Okeechobee. When the water rises to levels that threaten the integrity of that dike, it needs to be released. And instead of being released in a clean form to the south the way it once historically was, it is now released to the east and to the west.

These waters, rich in nutrients, are released into estuaries and canals that also have nutrients in them because of storm water runoff or because of seepage from faulty or old septic tanks. When that flow reaches the ocean, the estuaries, the lagoon, the lake, or the river and is under the hot sun—as it is during the summer—the conditions become ripe for an algae bloom. That is what we are seeing now.

Although the bacteria is always present in the waters, it needs the present circumstances to form, and, unfortunately, the conditions we have now have been a perfect storm. This winter and spring provided numerous storms and produced so much rain that the Army Corps of Engineers began discharging water in January, and it hasn't stopped since.

I recently requested the Army Corps to stop these harmful discharges. They agreed to slow the discharges but not to stop them entirely. With the State of Florida's emergency declaration, more water is able to be held north of the lake, which allows for less water to be discharged east and west out of the lake.

I was there a couple of weeks ago, and it is a disgusting sight to see and to smell and to breathe. The algae has forced the closure of several beaches, killing fish and oysters, hurting tourism, harming local businesses, and sinking property values. People are canceling their vacations, and all of this is hurting the local economy in the Treasure Coast in enormous ways.

So far, we have done a number of things to help address this problem. For example, I supported our Governor's request that President Obama declare this a Federal disaster so that resources can be made available to the impacted communities. I asked that the President approve this request promptly so that the much needed resources can be deployed.

My office has also been working for months with the Small Business Administration on the harmful impacts of the discharges. In April we were able to get the SBA to ensure disaster loans were made available to businesses suffering from these discharges. We were recently able to confirm with the SBA that the disaster loans will apply to those affected by the current algal blooms.

We have been in touch with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about making sure the concerns many have about the health impacts of the algae are properly looked at and addressed. I was pleased to learn this week in a meeting that the CDC has

been working with the State of Florida, and I have asked them to stand ready, should the State require more assistance.

Perhaps the single most important long-term solution we can put in place is the need for the Senate and for the House to pass and for the President to sign the authorization for the Central Everglades Planning Project, which will divert these harmful discharges away from the coastlines and send more water south through the Everglades. We cannot lose our focus when it comes to these projects.

As you heard a moment ago, the Senator from Michigan mentioned the water bill. Along with 29 other Senators, I sent a letter to Senate leadership, asking that the Water Resources Development Act receive floor consideration. I have also urged the leaders of the Senate to take this action, specifically because of the merits of the Central Everglades Planning Project included in that bill and because of its importance to Florida.

I want to focus the rest of my time here on a new problem that emerged just last Friday. It deals with the discharges from Lake Okeechobee. As I mentioned, these discharges—the water being released—have been ongoing since January of this year, and what the discharges do is lower the salinity levels and cause the algae to bloom.

Just when you think you have had enough problems to deal with on this, the Federal Government came out of nowhere last Friday and threw in another wrench. The Obama administration, through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, "recommended" that the South Florida Water Management District force more water from the north into that lake that is already releasing too much water, and they did so in order to protect 10 snail kite bird nests—10 bird nests.

If the local water district does not comply with this "recommendation," the Federal Government has threatened to sue them. As I have just covered, the Lake Okeechobee discharges are part of the problem. Yet here come Federal regulators from a completely different department asking for more discharges. And why? To protect 10 bird nests.

In Florida, we love our wildlife. We love our Florida panthers. We love our dolphins. We love our manatees. If you drive across the State, I can't tell you how many animals you will see on people's license plates because Florida's Department of Motor Vehicles provides many options for people to show just how much they love and support the different animals, the flora and fauna that our State has. In fact, I am one of those people with one of those plates. I have an alligator on mine, although it is the University of Florida Gator.

We love our wildlife in Florida, but when you have situations and conflicts like this one, you are essentially trying to figure out whose side to be on: 10 bird nests of a species with numbers on the rise or millions of Treasure Coast residents and the marine life that inhabits those waters? The answer should be clear. Stop the discharges and side with the millions of people on the

Treasure Coast. But the Federal Government is clearly not on their side.

What the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is demanding is truly beyond comprehension, and it is an example of a Federal bureaucracy run amok. If the local water district does as the Federal Government demands and releases held water into Lake Okeechobee, the Army Corps of Engineers is going to be forced to increase discharges into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

These regulatory decisions are having a real impact on Floridians, on our ecology, on our economy, and on our very way of life up and down the Treasure Coast. I asked the Director of Fish & Wildlife, as well as the Secretary of the Interior, to immediately reverse this harmful, tone-deaf instruction that, if they implement it, will only prolong the ecological crisis along the Florida waterways.

Just admit that this makes no sense—no sense at all. Reverse this order, and let's focus on everything else we need to be doing on this algae issue and that we were focused on before the Federal Government decided to create yet another problem to deal with.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY BOUCK

Mr. President, on a third and final topic, today I would like to acknowledge a valued and long-term member of my Senate office who recently left our office. Emily Bouck has been on our team for nearly 7 years. She started as an intern on my 2010 Senate campaign and then came here to the Senate, proving herself, taking on every challenge asked of her, and ultimately helping me develop higher education and health care policies.

Among the many issues that Emily handled for us, she worked tirelessly on the Zika issue and finding a way to help those afflicted with it. Everyone in my office has come to trust Emily's expertise. That is why she will be missed. We thank her for her service to our office and to the people of Florida, and we truly wish her the very best.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, it is time once again for the waste of the week. This is "Waste of the Week" No. 48. For 48 weeks I have been coming to the Senate floor during this Senate session, a 2-year session, talking about the waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer money. The ever-growing need to tackle our soaring debt has been brought to our attention once again this week by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

On Tuesday, the budget office released its long-term Federal budget update, and it is not pretty. Once again, CBO bluntly told Congress that we need to reduce the Federal debt as soon as possible. How many times do they have to send a report here saying: Look, the house is on fire; you have to do something about it. I say, once again—but I can say once again, once again, once again, once again, once again—the Congressional Budget Office is nonpartisan. It is not Republican; it is not Democrat; it is not liberal; it is not conservative. These guys deal with numbers, and the numbers don't lie.

You don't have to be a math genius to figure out that we are spending far more than we take in, and we have to borrow against that.

Just under this administration, we have nearly doubled from \$10.7 trillion of national debt to almost \$20 trillion of national debt. This is the legacy the President wants to carry? You never hear him talk about this. You never hear this mentioned.

Oh, ObamaCare is the best thing that has ever happened in the world. If you have been listening to the disaster that is rolling out under ObamaCare and the premiums that have doubled and the copays that have tripled and the exemptions that have been lost and all kinds of things happening to people in America here today under this flawed Federal program, you would understand this. We are talking about a budget out of control, spending out of control.

I have been a part of efforts to deal with this on a macro basis. All of those have failed, and they failed because the President of the United States has refused to come to a conclusion in working with us. Oh, he made some attempts to do it. He made some nice statements, but in the end it was always: Can't go there.

I decided I would at least try to point out documented issues of waste, fraud, and abuse. The very least we can do is stop this kind of spending. We have totaled up a pretty good total here. We are approaching \$250 billion of documented waste, fraud, and abuse.

CBO projects that the combined Social Security trust funds will be exhausted by 2029—5 years earlier than the Social Security trustees estimated a little bit ago—forcing automatic benefit cuts on seniors and people with disabilities. Let me repeat that: forcing automatic cuts to seniors and those with disabilities.

Do you hear Senators talking about the fact that we are going to have to do this? No, I don't hear this on the floor. Do you hear the President talking about this? No, let's pass this on—2029, I mean, that is way in the distance. Why do we need to worry about that now?

That is what they were saying when the debt was \$10.7 trillion. That is what they were saying when the debt was \$5 trillion: We can do this later. Well, the clock is ticking. Is anybody out there listening? Hello, hello. We are on the road to insolvency, and your elected representatives and your President aren't doing anything about it.

As you can tell, I get pretty worked up about this. I am down to some of the small stuff, pointing out: Can't we at least do this? Can't we at least come together as a Senate and as a House of Representatives, and can't we at least eliminate the waste, the documented fraud, the abuse of programs?

I am now on week No. 48. I have a card here that details all of the issues we have done. It keeps adding up and adding up, and I am only scratching

the surface. I can be down here every day, maybe every hour of every day the Senate is in session, talking about a waste of the week.

What the CBO puts out, what the Government Accountability Office puts out, what independent agencies put out—we can do 24-hour filibusters and just rack one up after another. This is your Federal Government in action. The tragedy is these are the tax dollars that you work hard for every week and that you send to Washington, and you want them responsibly used.

Yes, of course, we have to fund the military. Yes, we want to take care of the veterans. We want to take care of our national security. We are a threat now from ISIS; we are a threat from terrorists around the world, some of them domestic. We want police forces, we want intelligence, and we want all those entities that are involved in keeping us safe. We need to fund those agencies.

What about medical research? What about disease control? We are talking about Ebola. We are talking about Zika. We are talking about a number of things that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention deals with in Atlanta.

How about education? How about roads? How about sewers? How about waterlines? How about the raft of things that require spending in order to keep our Nation healthy, in order to keep our Nation functioning, in order to make us competitive in the world?

All of that is at risk. All of that is at risk because our entitlements keep growing out of control. No one is saying there is a fire on the way. It is growing, not diminishing, and you are not calling the fire department out to deal with this issue.

Let me get to the essence of this recent issue here. Remember the Lifeline program? That is the program that provides people of lower means, perhaps some in rural areas, a lifeline so that they can call 911. There has been some documentation that some people can't afford this. The President came along, and they call it the Obama Phone program now. It is advertised—I think it is a private advertisement, but it is a government-sponsored legislative program, and it is contracted out. Free cell phone—the government pays for your wireless service—free phone, free minutes, free enrollment, no payment ever.

This well-intended program was to provide people a lifeline in case of an emergency—the ability to dial 9-1-1. This lifeline is important to low-income earners who couldn't afford a phone. That program has some benefits and is something that maybe we ought to do, but we ought to put controls on it to make sure the program is not abused.

Initially, this program helped low-income families pay for landline phone service, but landline, as you know, is out of date. I doubt if any of these pages even know what a landline is

since they have grown up in the cell phone era. It happened just a few years after I came to the Senate. This program—like almost every other program the government sponsors—is well-intended but runs amok because of mismanagement, misuse of the law, misinterpretation, abuse, waste, and people taking advantage of it.

Under the Obama administration, the cost and number of beneficiaries in this program have skyrocketed, and with this increase came a number of issues.

The inspector general for the Federal Communications Commission, which is called the FCC, which administers this program that they contract out, did a study. They noted that prior to 2012, it was, as they said, "well known" that some individuals were receiving duplicative benefits or receiving benefits despite their eligibility for those benefits." For instance, there was supposed to be one phone made available per home, one per family, if they couldn't afford one. They found home addresses with dozens of phones and handing them out. There were posters like this that said: Get your free phone. People were grabbing them up as fast as they could. Word got out on the street that you can get a free phone line and the government will pay for it—yet another program the government is going to take care of. Well intended, yes, but there was a public outcry when stuff like this came out here. People said: What is the deal? I thought the phone was for emergency purposes. I thought we needed one per household to give them the opportunity to call 9-1-1 when needed, or if it was a single person—or a couple who needed a phone, maybe they should share it.

The inspector general said that the one-per-household rule wasn't working very well, and so the FCC apparently implemented a policy that basically said subscribers could override the eligibility for this because maybe these people need more than one cell phone.

The IG has learned that abuse within this program is more widespread than anybody previously believed.

First, the IG learned that, as I said, the FCC instructed employees to override the computer system that prohibits more than one applicant per household.

Second, the FCC—on the form that you have to send in—basically said: All the subscribers need to do is provide a check in the box that says the applicant is eligible. But multiple applications came in from the same address, and no one asked, as the law required, applicants to provide any supporting documentation. The IG found that this override option was also enabling subscribers to use fake names and fake Social Security numbers to avoid detection. How many times have I been down here talking about fake names, stolen IDs, and stolen Social Security numbers that were used to obtain Federal benefits with no oversight?

The IG noted that between October 2014 and April 2016, nearly 4.3 million

people enrolled in the Lifeline Program by overriding the internal eligibility controls. That is more than 35 percent of all subscribers and accounts, and that rivals the population of the entire State of Oregon. These aren't people who needed phones; these are people who overrode it so they he could get as many phones as they wanted.

Obviously our Washington bureaucrats have not been good stewards of our taxpayer dollars. Sadly, this is not the end of the story. It is important to note that the IG is still in the process of reviewing these egregious actions to determine just how widespread the problem is.

In the meantime, what I am calling for here on the Senate floor is that the FCC stop allowing people to enroll in the Lifeline Program through the override process and to verify every single beneficiary so that we can weed out the bad actors. Whether you are in private business or the government, is that what you would expect? If you are selling or distributing a product—and in this case, distributing a product based on taxpayer dollars—don't you think you would want to, No. 1, adhere to the law, and No. 2, adhere to the regulations and not have some kind of arbitrary override, especially when you have stuff like this on the street and people are gobbling up free service on cell phones by the millions? What is the total? The total we can project for unverified Obama Phone beneficiaries is \$4.76 billion over the course of unverified Obama phone applicants.

I am not here to say this program should be abolished. I understand why people need to have a phone in their household for an emergency purpose. If they qualify under the eligibility criteria, I am OK with that, but if they are abusing the program, I am not OK with that at all, and I guarantee that the American taxpayer is not willing to accept that. They did not send us here to stand by, as responsible U.S. Senators, and watch this kind of abuse go on and on and on, and this Senator has barely scratched the surface in an effort to document waste, fraud, and abuse.

We now have \$239-plus billion of documented fraud, waste, and abuse by accountable government agencies, and it is totally unacceptable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

IRAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as we leave Washington for our summer recess, we are also marking the 1-year anniversary of the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA, by the P5+1. A number of my colleagues have come to the floor to mark this occasion, led by our friend and colleague, Senator COONS of Delaware. This nuclear agreement provides profoundly important time to hold Iran accountable—time that is supremely valuable but only if we use it wisely. That lesson should animate the con-

versation around the country, as well as in this Chamber, that time must be used wisely, energetically, and aggressively to make sure that we prevent a nuclear-armed Iran and also stop its funding and support for terrorist extremism.

We must use the time provided for us by this agreement to confront Iran's malign activities beyond its nuclear program, to fortify the security of the United States and Israel, our major strategic partner in the region, and to ensure that we are working in close coordination with this all-important ally. We must make sure that our positions are aligned when they need to be, that there is no space, no daylight between Israel and the United States where we must and should be working together.

We need to enhance strong enforcement of the JCPOA, our nuclear agreement, with the P5+1 to ensure that Iran is never able to break across the enrichment threshold to obtain a nuclear weapon.

The simple, stark fact is that we are at war with ISIS—whatever it is called; ISIL or by any other name—and we are in that war to win. We must win it. The fact is that we are succeeding, but ISIS is also enhancing its activity as it metastasizes with extremist violence sponsored, supported, and inspired around the world—in Europe, as well as in this country in San Bernardino and Orlando—where massacres are stated to be in alignment with and supported and inspired by ISIS, and where ISIS itself is claiming credit for those activities.

In the Middle East, Iran continues to be a leading state sponsor of terrorism. Irrespective of the nuclear agreement, we must work together to find new ways to push back on Iran's financing of terrorism. Just recently, the international financial action task force made the alarming decision to suspend countermeasures against Iran for 12 months concerning its money-laundering and terrorist-finding activities. This action is truly appalling, as I have made clear in a letter that I wrote and led to our Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew, with seven of my Senate colleagues urging him to address this dangerous decision to prevent any further attempts to reintegrate Iran into the international banking system as Iran has not eliminated its entrenched practice of financing terrorism.

Again, time is only as valuable as we make it. We must use the time we have under this agreement to separate Iran from its terror proxies, such as Hezbollah and the Assad regime. That is why I also support the Senate moving to extend the Iran Sanctions Act.

Now is the time to call Iran to account for and identify and target the specific individuals and entities engaged in terrorist financing, human rights violations, and fueling the tragic Syrian conflict that has killed so many innocent people and separated so many from their homes, particularly children whom I have seen in one of the refugee camps in Jordan.

Each year, as part of the current tenure or memorandum of understanding on the U.S. military assistance with Israel, we provide Israel with more than \$3 billion in aid. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have been fighting to ensure that this year's Defense bill will fund Israel's missile defense programs and will continue to do so as we enter the conference with the House on the NDAA, which we will do shortly. Our goal has to be to reach the \$601 million that has been authorized. I am hopeful we will do so. I will fight to make sure that the conference committee report includes that number.

While I know these annual increases for missile programs are vital to our defense cooperation, we really need a long-term agreement to defend Israel against threats in an uncertain regional environment and to ensure its qualitative military edge over Iran or any other adversary.

We need to use this time to renew a robust, decade-long memorandum of understanding on U.S. military assistance, or MOU, with Israel as soon as possible. I am hopeful that the MOU will be concluded as quickly as possible. Indeed, last November Senator BENNET and I co-led a letter to the President concerning the need to renew this MOU, and I followed up in April with another letter by Senators COONS and GRAHAM, a bipartisan effort on the same issue.

The MOU needs a historic increase in military aid. And one other point. I know that much of that assistance is used in the United States to make equipment, like the Joint Strike Fighter, whose engines are manufactured in Connecticut, but Israel should also retain some flexibility to use these funds to develop its own unique capabilities. The current MOU allows Israel to harness 26.3 percent of our security assistance to purchase domestic Israeli equipment, and I urge the administration to work to maintain this goal in the next MOU. We must rely on American manufacturing and American jobs where there is value added and whenever possible, but Israel has the same interest in its production capacity and its defense industrial base, and both must be strong and aligned.

As I look forward to the year coming and to the enforcement of the nuclear agreement, I believe we must, very frankly, do a better job of enforcement, as I am positive that Iran will test us and seek any advantage it can find. That is the stark, simple truth about that agreement.

This administration and any President who follows must harness the tools provided in the nuclear agreement to know what Iran is doing and bring transparency that will push back Iran's breakout time and deter any failure of compliance. The IAEA must be fully funded, and we must have more inspectors on the ground to keep an eye on Iran's facilities. The best agreement in the world is meaningless if it

is unenforced. I know that from my own background as a law enforcer for most of my professional career. The law is dead letter if it is not enforced effectively and aggressively, with the credibility that deters violation.

As we move past the 1-year mark, the United States must strengthen enforcement actions against Iran. We must do everything possible to hold Iran accountable, and that action must include passing the Iran Policy Oversight Act—legislation led by my distinguished colleague Senator CARDIN, the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and I am an original cosponsor of it and helped to draft and lead it. It will strengthen and improve the nuclear agreement—in no way contradicting or undermining it—by providing vital oversight and vigorous enforcement to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

It addresses three preeminent priorities—steps that are well within Congress's power, its proper authority, and its control. First, it enshrines in our law that our policy on deterrence remains in effect and that all options, including military options, remain on the table. Second, this bill reaffirms our dedication to countering Iranian terrorism, as well as Iranian human rights violations and its regional influence that may perniciously undermine the stability of the area by providing a regional strategy and strong sanctions. Third, the bill empowers our allies—especially Israel, our key strategic partner in the Middle East—to counter Iran and its terror proxies by authorizing the President to provide Israel with additional military aid, intelligence cooperation, and missile defense codevelopment.

This nuclear agreement, the JCPOA, provides us time. It is valuable time if we use it to stop a nuclear Iran, but it is only as valuable as we make it. That fact bears repeating, as I have repeated it again and again. The time must be used to support Israel with a historic increase of military aid and push for strong enforcement of this agreement to set back the clock on Iran's apparently ceaseless nuclear ambition.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues and the administration on these issues in the time to come. My hope is that this effort will continue to be, as it has been very earnestly, a bipartisan effort. We can never allow partisan differences to come between us on this issue. There should be no space between us across the aisle, and there should be none between Israel and the United States in seeking to stop a nuclear-armed Iran, seeking to halt its sponsorship of terrorism that endangers us both as nations seeking to advance common interests where we have them and where our vital national strategic goals align.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING SENIOR CORPORAL LORNE AHRENS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wanted to speak for just a few moments this afternoon about how the tragedy in Dallas touched many in Alaska, particularly the bedroom community of Eagle River, AK, just outside of Anchorage. Among the five law enforcement heroes who were murdered last Thursday was Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens of the Dallas Police Department. His father, William, and his stepmother, Sue, live in Eagle River. Last Friday morning Bill and Sue became members of a very exclusive fraternity that no law enforcement family ever wishes to join, and that is the fraternity of families who have lost an officer in the line of duty.

Lorne never lived in Alaska. He did visit on several occasions. He grew up in Southern California. He served with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and then with the Dallas Police Department. But if you read the accounts of the articles in the Alaska papers—not only in the Alaska Dispatch News over the weekend but in the Juneau Empire yesterday—the accounts of Lorne and his story and his connection with Alaska, one would have assumed that he was one of ours, that he was an Alaskan. I think it just spoke to the loss, and the tragedy we all saw last Thursday reminded us that we are truly one community in so many ways.

Bill and Sue Ahrens attend the Anchorage Baptist Temple. When they heard the news that Bill's son had been killed in Dallas, this church community truly opened their arms and they opened their hearts to support the family not only over that difficult weekend but really to provide them what any church community would do, what any broader community would do—to provide them that support. One can certainly understand that the grief is almost insupportable.

Lorne Ahrens was a huge guy, if you follow the descriptions in the paper, a big guy, a former semi-pro football player. He was a smart cop with a big heart, is what they said. His stature made people feel that he was almost invincible. But as much as we might not want to believe it, our law enforcement heroes are not invincible. They put on the badge in the morning, they kiss their wives and their kids, and then they enter a world that is entirely unpredictable and, unfortunately, increasingly dangerous.

Lorne's wife Katrina is a detective with the Dallas Police Department. She understands this problem more than most, but, really, how do you explain it to your children—in this case, their children, Sorcha, who is just 10 years old, and their son Magnus, age 8.

Fortunately, Katrina, Magnus, Sorcha, Bill, and Sue will not be alone.

The law enforcement community closes ranks to support survivors and their children at the local and the national levels. There is a wonderful organization known as Concerns of Police Survivors that comes in and enters the family's lives. It doesn't make everything all right, but hopefully it will help.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund will work with the Dallas Police Department and the family to honor Lorne's memory in perpetuity just a few blocks away from here on Judiciary Square.

Since coming to the Senate, I have actually grown pretty close to the folks who maintain the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. I have gone to the candlelight vigils during National Police Week, and I have read the names of fallen officers from the State of Alaska. My staff has decorated the memorial with commemorative items that were sent by departments and family members who could not make it to Washington for the candlelight vigil. We have sent pencil etchings back to the Alaskan families and to the departments. I have driven down to Alexandria to meet with the families of the fallen at the annual Concerns of Police Survivors Conference. Their cause is my cause. This has become quite personal to me.

Next May, the name of Lorne Ahrens will be inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and I am pretty certain that Bill and Sue will be invited to travel to Washington to participate in the observance, and I hope to welcome them here on Capitol Hill, along with Katrina, Sorcha, and Magnus. Communities throughout the Nation are grieving the loss of Lorne Ahrens as well as his four colleagues from the Dallas Police Department this week. It becomes even more personal to the communities with which they are connected, where they lived, where they called home—in Lorne's case, his home community of Burleson, TX, the city of Dallas, Los Angeles County, CA, and, yes, in faraway smaller places like Eagle River in Alaska.

As we recognize Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens, know that the people of Alaska stand with the Ahrens family at this very difficult time and throughout their lives because he truly was one of ours.

BREE'S LAW

Mr. President, I would like to bring up a matter that oftentimes people would just assume not have a discussion about; that is, abusive relationships that unfortunately we see with young people and teenagers. All across this country, teenagers and young adults are victims of abuse in their relationships. There is no part of the country where we don't see this. According to some research, more than 1 million high school boys and girls admit to being physically abused by their boyfriend or girlfriend. One in three teens will be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship that includes

sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse. One in three teens reports knowing friends who were abused, but most don't know how to intervene. Only one-third of the teens reported their experiences to anyone, not even their parents.

We are not just talking about those who are 18 years old. Nearly two-thirds of young people between the ages of 11 and 14 who have been in a relationship have been verbally abused by people who are supposed to care for them. One in three teenagers has been hit, punched, slapped, kicked, or choked by someone who is supposed to care about them.

Research also tells us that teens who are abused in dating relationships are more likely to succumb to post-traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts, and even violent behavior. Yet, over 80 percent of parents don't know that teen dating violence is an issue that affects young people from all backgrounds, all parts of the country, and children who are not even old enough yet to be called a teenager. It is often much harder for teens to leave an abusive relationship than for adults because they often don't know how they can access resources or that resources exist at all.

As a parent, this is hard for me. I think it is hard for all parents. We try to do everything we possibly can to keep our children safe as they are growing up. We make sure we buckle the seatbelt when they are little kids. We put them in the infant seat. We teach them how to safely cross the street. We make them wear bike helmets, and we teach them about stranger danger. But, again, one in two teens somehow or another ends up in an abusive relationship.

Statistics are one thing, but the experiences of real Americans inform our work in the Senate every day, far more than just the mere numbers of statistics. Today I would like to tell you about a beautiful young woman who has inspired a bill I have introduced. This is a young woman by the name of Breanna Richelle Moore. Breanna went by the name of Bree.

Bree was a strong, engaging, happy, accomplished young woman. She excelled in all kinds of sports—in swimming, track and field, volleyball, and many other sports. Her school offered a Japanese immersion program, so at the age of 5, she started to learn to read and write and speak Japanese. She was an accomplished flute player. She sang beautifully at many public events across the city of Anchorage. She was really the quintessential Alaskan woman.

In addition to her athletics and her artistic talents, the girl could hunt, she could fish, ride a dirt bike and snow machine better than most boys, and when they broke down, she could even fix them. She did well in school. She volunteered to nurse sick, abandoned, and dying pets. She worked her way up from being a dental hygienist

assistant to the dentist's assistant, and she was about to change her major in college to pre-med. She was motivated, funny, and she was happy. Everywhere she went, her friends would say Bree "saw the good in everyone, spreading happiness wherever she went, and had the gift to make everyone else a better person."

But Bree was also in an abusive relationship. On June 26, 2014, her boyfriend shot and killed her. She was 20 years old. That same year, Alaska was ranked No. 1 in the Nation for the rate of women murdered by men—over twice the national average. This is not a statistic in Alaska we are proud of.

After her death, three of Bree's co-workers said they knew she was being abused. She came to work a couple times with a black eye. They also said: We didn't know what to do or whom to call—if there was just something we could have done. They and Bree's parents will be forever haunted by the knowledge that they did not understand or act on the signs of dating abuse and violence that took this marvelous young woman's life.

In the 2 years since Bree's death, her parents have learned Bree's relationship with her boyfriend was an absolute textbook case of dating violence, but those closest to her didn't know what was happening or, if they did know, if they had the sneaking suspicion, they just didn't know what to do about it.

Bree Moore was a young woman who was destined to make a difference, and while her life was tragically cut short, she continues to make a difference. Bree continues to make a difference. Last year, the Alaska Legislature passed a provision in law entitled "Bree's Law." It mandates that every school across Alaska teach dating violence and abuse awareness and prevention in grades 7 through 12. The bill was controversial. I recognize that. Many wondered how school districts would pay for adopting the curriculum and providing the courses, but they made it through the controversy and that bill passed and is now signed into law.

In December of last year in Washington, DC, the Every Student Succeeds Act was enacted. A provision within that law allows schools to use their Safe and Healthy Students funding to "improve instructional practices for developing relationship-building skills, such as effective communication, and improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse, including teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment."

I have come to the floor to honor a young woman from Alaska. I come to the floor to speak about the legislation I have introduced that would rename that provision within the Every Student Succeeds Law after Bree Moore. My bill would allow, not require, schools, parents, teens, everyone to

call this provision of Federal law Bree's Law, and the programs and activities funded by it Bree's Law programs and Bree's Law activities.

Bree Moore was a young woman who every father and mother, every sister and brother, every friend, and every employer could be proud of. She was bright, funny, and she was motivated to help the less fortunate. She was accomplished. She was devoted.

It is fitting that those who loved and respected Bree should see her life honored in this way. It is right that the U.S. Congress honor her in this way, and by doing so, make a further commitment to protecting young women and men from dating abuse and violence in the years to come.

It is fitting to know that as the young people of Alaska learn how to recognize, prevent, avoid, and act on dating violence, that they remember and honor Bree Moore and that they learn from her, that all the good Bree represents goes on to inspire and help future generations.

Like Amber Hagerman, who was the 9-year-old abducted and murdered in 1996, for whom the Amber Alert System is named, it is fitting that young people across the country have the opportunity to know that the U.S. Congress believes so strongly in their future that they would take this opportunity to name a provision of Federal law after Bree Moore.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KIM CARTER

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Kim Carter of Hot Springs as this week's Arkansan of the Week, for her commitment to ensuring Arkansas' children have the love and support they deserve. Kim is a foster parent in Hot Springs, and with her family has spent over a decade helping nearly three dozen children, but her support for Arkansas' children does not end there. Kim is also the director of Camp Tanako in Hot Springs, a local church camp.

Under her leadership and direction, Kim has helped the camp expand its reach tremendously. Each year, dozens of area children are able to participate in Camp Tanako's various summer programs. Recently, Kim also started a day camp for local children to attend in the summer, which has also been a huge success.

For those who know her, Kim is known as Momma Kim, and hearing their stories, it is not hard to see why. According to her friends and neighbors, Kim's impact on children cannot be overstated. Whether it is her own children, one of her many foster children,

friends of her own children, or campers and camp staff, everyone seems to have a story about Kim.

Kim's dedication to Arkansas' children is inspiring, and her compassionate spirit is a living example of the close-knit and caring community we have across our great State. I am pleased to recognize Kim Carter as this week's Arkansan of the Week and join all Arkansans in thanking her for committing her life to making the lives of children in Arkansas brighter.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. It looks as though we are here at the end of the day. The State of Alaska is well represented. I appreciate that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1915

Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill that Senators AYOTTE, BOOKER, and others have worked on to ensure that first responders are equipped to deal with anthrax threats. It is my understanding that this bill was cleared early on both sides of the aisle because of the hard work of Senators AYOTTE and BOOKER.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 458, S. 1915. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Ayotte substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we would be happy to pass this bill as soon as the Republicans schedule and pass a bill to close the terror gun loophole. In that I don't see that is going to happen in the next little bit, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT LEGISLATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the total outstanding Federal debt has risen by more than \$8.7 trillion during Presi-

dent Obama's tenure, to almost \$19.4 trillion today.

That is the highest level of Federal debt in U.S. history and, relative to the size of the economy, is at a level not seen since the years surrounding World War II. Such debt levels pose significant risks to financial stability and the economy, as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has repeatedly made clear for many years now.

Unfortunately, President Obama's failure to address the debt leaves those risks in place and leaves a legacy of burden on future generations, who will be saddled with almost twice as much Federal debt today than when the President took office.

According to CBO projections, Federal deficits and debt are on an upward trajectory. As we all know, the main drivers of our debt are entitlement programs that are, at this point, essentially on autopilot.

As the Nation confronts its astronomical debt, it is imperative that those charged with managing the debt do so with transparency and accountability. I am sure that all of my colleagues agree that, if we are going to saddle future workers with outsized debt, then, at the very least, Congress and the American people are entitled to know how debt management decisions are made.

That, of course, requires the cooperation of the U.S. Treasury Department, as well as its fiscal agents at the Federal Reserve. As our debt has exploded, the Federal Reserve has simultaneously ballooned its balance sheet, in part by increasing its holdings of U.S. debt securities by nearly \$2 trillion since President Obama took office. Like it or not, what the Fed does with its debt purchases and holdings carries many implications for the Treasury debt market.

At the same time, both Treasury and the Fed have been unacceptably opaque regarding federal debt management practices, cash management, and contingency planning. This has been a pattern that has repeated itself over and over under the Obama administration.

When we have approached the Federal debt limit, the Obama Treasury has repeatedly withheld vital information.

When the U.S. sovereign credit rating was downgraded for the very first time in 2011, Treasury, the Fed, and other financial regulators withheld vital information.

When members of Congress have asked Treasury, the Fed, and other agencies for contingency plans for dealing with any kind of default resulting from any number of causes, they have withheld vital information.

When members of Congress have simply needed to know the amount of the Federal Government's operating cash balance—which is managed by Treasury—the Obama administration has withheld that vital information.

For years now, since at least 2011, I have, as either the Chairman or Rank-

ing Member of the Senate committee with oversight jurisdiction over the management of our debt, repeatedly requested basic information about our Nation's finances and, at almost every turn, have been stonewalled. Often, the stonewalling has come with the excuse that the information I have been seeking is "market sensitive," an ironic designation given that much of the information I and others have been seeking has been shared with large financial institutions—actual participants in the markets.

Let me get a little more specific.

Beginning almost exactly five years ago—in July of 2011—I began asking the administration for information regarding contingency plans formulated by Treasury, the Fed, and other agencies that would outline what they would do in the event of delayed payments, a default, or a credit-rating downgrade.

I made my initial request in the weeks surrounding the debate over the debt limit in 2011 when there was clear evidence that various agencies had formulated these kind of contingency plans. In addition, I asked questions about how much cash was in the till at Treasury, and how much they were projecting would be available in future days and weeks.

Rather than giving a full and fair accounting to Congress and the American people, the administration withheld this vital information and, instead, opted to engage in a political battle over the statutory debt limit, apparently believing that their position in that debate would be strengthened if lawmakers and their constituents were unaware of the fiscal state of the country or what plans were in place.

Before anyone jumps to the conclusion that my inquiries were politically motivated and that I was trying to strengthen the hand of congressional Republicans in debt-limit debates, let me be clear: my requests for contingency plans were not and have not been limited to debt limit impasses.

Instead, I have sought to find out what Treasury and others would do if timely payments could not be made for any reason.

Delayed payments could occur under a variety of circumstances, not only in the event of a debt-limit impasse. A cyberattack, a terrorist attack, a prolonged power outage in financial centers, or a natural disaster could all result in delayed payments. While any such event would surely be catastrophic, they are all within the realm of possibility. Quite frankly, it would be imprudent risk management and, really, fiscal malpractice to not plan for those types of contingencies.

Indeed, we know that agencies in the Federal Government have made such plans, in consultation with representatives of large financial institutions—or, as my friends on the other side would say: Wall Street.

We know they have developed these plans because investigations and subpoenas issued by the House Financial

Services Committee have made clear that Treasury, the Fed, and Wall Street are routinely engaged in contingency planning and have been doing so for the entire time I have been submitting my inquiries.

Frankly, if no contingency plans existed, the American people would have ample cause to be concerned—if not completely outraged—at the recklessness of our debt managers. Given that we know these plans exist, however, they should be similarly outraged and concerned with the fact that the administration refuses to share any relevant information about the plans.

Rather than reveal pertinent information to Congress and the American people, Treasury and the Fed have continually insisted on keeping the plans secret, usually refusing to acknowledge they even exist.

I have received the same basic response to all of my inquiries. To paraphrase, I have been told that we should never default on our debt because of the debt limit and that Congress has an obligation to make sure the debt-limit is always raised, without discussion, in order to prevent such a default.

However, once again, delayed payments could result in a variety of scenarios, and a debt-limit impasse is just one of them.

The reason for this lack of transparency is simple: Leaders in the Obama administration clearly believe that their political position in a debate over a debt-limit increase will be stronger if the American public believes that they don't have any plans for dealing with delayed payments or a default.

This secrecy with regard to such a serious matter of public interest is simply absurd, bordering on embarrassing, and the American people deserve better.

Enough is enough.

Yesterday, I sent letters to the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve, once again asking for more information about how the country's debt and cash-balance information is being handled.

In addition, I introduced a bill titled *The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act*.

This is a nonpartisan bill, and I welcome members from both sides of the aisle to sign on as cosponsors. The aim of the bill is simple: to provide greater accountability on the nation's debt, contingency planning for debt disruptions, and a more certain debt limit process.

Specifically, the bill takes the existing, opaque, and chaotic process followed by Treasury and others as they manage the Federal debt, and replaces it with a transparent, consistent, and constructive process. It requires greater information sharing between federal regulators and Congress with regard to the debt, along with more administrative accountability for debt management practices. In addition, the legislation provides a more orderly and in-

formed process for dealing with periods during which our debt approaches the statutory limit.

The bill also establishes a requirement that the Treasury Secretary report to and appear before Congress whenever a statutory debt limit is impending, to work and communicate with Congress in order to responsibly address the debt, and to make Treasury's information on the debt readily available to the public in a single online repository.

If enacted, this legislation will bring Treasury, Congress, and the American people together on equal informational footing to ensure that Federal debt and fiscal management occurs in the open, where everyone shares the same information.

After all, if, as we have repeatedly been told by Secretary Lew, Treasury has "the best information" when it comes to the state of our debt, then policymakers outside the Executive Branch, as well as the American people, should have access to that same information.

Once again, our current debt of nearly \$19.4 trillion is outsized in absolute terms and relative to the size of our economy. It is a threat to our government, our financial system, and our economy.

I don't know anyone without a political ax to grind who believes differently.

We cannot continue to roll the dice with the future of our children and grandchildren.

One of the first steps we can take toward fiscal sustainability is greater transparency and accountability from those in the Federal Government that we have assigned to be agents of the American people for management of our fiscal affairs.

The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act enables that accountability and transparency, and will help put an end to the politicization of debt management and to the ongoing practice of selective disclosure of vital debt information.

Put simply, it will give Congress and the American people a clear-eyed account of the debt so that we can focus on returning public finances to a more solid long-term path.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this important legislation.

SULLIVAN MOTION TO INSTRUCT NDAA CONFEREES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I supported the junior Senator from Alaska's motion to instruct the National Defense Authorization Act conferees. The motion is generally consistent with the administration's force structure proposals for Afghanistan, Europe, the Pacific, and the Middle East. It also is consistent with last year's bipartisan budget agreement. The motion does not appropriate additional funding above the agreed upon spending caps, nor does it violate the parity

principle on which that agreement was based, which ensures that the middle class will be treated at least as fairly as the Pentagon. President Obama and congressional Democrats remain committed to that principle, and we will continue to insist that Republicans keep their promises and honor our agreement.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAESARS PALACE LAS VEGAS HOTEL AND CASINO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

Since it opened its doors on August 5, 1966, Caesars Palace has been a Las Vegas icon. Conceived by builder, designer, and hotel operator Jay Sarno, Caesars opened as an opulent 680-room Roman-themed fantasyland. Today Caesars Palace remains one of the world's most prestigious resorts. It is home to 14 restaurants, 3,980 rooms, 6 towers, a convention facility, and 630 suites and villas.

Filled with statues, columns, and iconography typical of Hollywood Roman period productions, Caesars Palace pioneered a new era of lavish casinos and resorts. It opened with a 3-day gala that included a stage production of "Rome Swings," starring Andy Williams and 1,400 guests. On December 31, 1967, the hotel and casino gained worldwide recognition when it served as the backdrop for Daredevil Evel Knievel's infamous attempt to jump over the iconic Caesars fountains. His son, Robbie Knievel, would later successfully clear the fountains on April 14, 1989. Throughout the last five decades, Caesars Palace has remained a leader in the entertainment industry, bringing the biggest names in music, celebrity chefs, luxury accommodations, premier shopping and gaming, and top sporting events to the heart of the Las Vegas Strip.

I love the sport of boxing, and I am proud that, in the late 1970s, Caesars Palace emerged as the premier venue for world championship boxing matches. It was the host for legendary matches between Hall of Famers: Thomas Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Larry Holmes, Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, and "the Greatest of All Time," Muhammad Ali. Caesars Palace was instrumental in turning Las Vegas into the "Boxing Capital of the World." In fact, one of my most prized possessions is a signed photograph of the great Joe Louis, who was hired by Caesars later in his life as a casino host and greeter and whose marble statue still sits inside the casino.

Throughout the past 50 years, many of our world's top performers have graced the stages of Caesars Palace, including Tony Bennett, Jerry Lewis, Liberace, and Diana Ross. Headliners such as Celine Dion, Shania Twain, Rod Stewart, Bette Midler, Cher,

Mariah Carey, and Sir Elton John have held residency performances at the 4,300-seat colosseum. The hotel and casino also provided the backdrop to blockbuster movies.

I commend Caesars Palace for 50 years of exceptional service to the Las Vegas Strip. Caesars Palace has continuously evolved throughout the past five decades to remain a leader on the world famous Las Vegas Strip, and I wish them continued success for years to come.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate held another vote on moving to the Defense appropriations bill. This bill was reported from committee by a 30 to nothing vote, and it shows what can be accomplished if we work in a bipartisan manner. Unfortunately, the Senate majority has taken a turn away from bipartisanship since the bill was drafted.

I will speak more about my concerns with this move toward division and divisiveness in a moment. But first let me commend the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator COCHRAN, for his leadership in producing this bill. He has been open to my proposals, and has also made a courageous stand against attempting to relitigate the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

Among the highlights of the bill include investments that strengthen our technology advantage, restore the readiness of the Armed Forces, and stabilize our defense industrial base.

Most importantly, this bill makes a strong statement in favor of defense medical research. It adds \$915 million in addition to the budget request for investigations into new drugs and therapies that could lead to breakthroughs in the treatment of diseases ranging from breast cancer, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's, prosthetics, and many other fields. This is an increase of 5 percent real growth compared to last year's bill.

The funding in this bill is small compared to the investments at the National Institutes of Health, but the results of defense medical research have touched the lives of countless numbers of servicemembers, their families, and have even spread into the civilian medical community. This funding makes a big impact in people's lives, and I am proud that our commitment to this research continues to grow each year.

The bill also recognizes the threat posed by ISIS. It fully funds the overseas contingency operations account to provide what our servicemembers need in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere in harm's way.

In this way, we disagree strongly with our House counterparts. The House bill provides only a portion of the funds necessary. We believe on a bipartisan basis that there should be no arbitrary cut-off date of funding for this Nation's fight against terrorism.

The U.S. and our allies are working to defeat ISIS on the ground in Iraq and Syria, and dismantle their international terror network. There is real progress on the ground. The President has built a coalition of 66 nations to fight ISIS. The terrorist group has almost half its territory in Iraq, and 20 percent of its territory in Syria. It has lost access to key sources of funds for its activities. The U.S. and its allies have killed tens of thousands of their fighters, as well as over 100 ISIS leaders.

This bill provides \$43.3 billion for DOD to fight Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and ISIS, including \$1.78 billion to continue this progress against ISIS by building the capacity of allies in Iraq, Syria, and the broader region.

We also must continue to prevent terrorism here at home through stronger homeland defenses and work with our allies to strengthen theirs—intelligence sharing and all the rest.

We have to have the entire Federal Government in this fight, from the Department of Homeland Security to the FBI, from the State Department to the Treasury Department. It cannot be DOD's fight alone.

People may be asking, since the Defense appropriations bill was approved by a committee vote of 30 to zero in May, why isn't the bill receiving a similar bipartisan vote in July? To find the answer, one need look no further than how the Republican majority has handled funding to combat the Zika virus.

On May 19, the Senate voted overwhelmingly, 68–30, to pass a \$1.1 billion package to respond to the threat of Zika. But in conference, a deal was cut without Democrats at the table that completely undermined the compromise proposal that was supported by the Senate.

There are only two explanations for how a bipartisan deal turned out so badly: maybe the negotiators on behalf of the Senate majority did not do a good job of representing the Senate's position. Or this was a case of legislative rope-a-dope, in which there was never an intention to follow through on a bipartisan compromise.

That brings us to the Defense appropriations bill. After the Senate caved once to unreasonable House proposals on the Zika bill, Democrats have sought assurances that we will have fair outcomes to negotiating other appropriations bills.

That simply means that Democrats should be at the table for conference negotiations, that these budget bills will have fair spending levels, and we avoid poison pills inserted by the House, such as cutting off funding for the fight against ISIL after just 6 months.

Sadly, the Republican majority has bristled at the idea of giving assurances that the fair process used in the Appropriations Committee to produce these budget bills will be allowed to continue.

Last year, when Republicans produced one-sided appropriations bills, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter called these plays a "road to nowhere."

Absent a commitment by the Republican leadership to continue in a spirit of bipartisanship and compromise, it seems they have chosen once again to walk down that same road that leads to gridlock and stalemate.

It is disappointing and disheartening that an appropriations process that began on such a good note has taken a turn for the worse.

The Defense appropriations bill is a good bill. Democrats are simply seeking assurances from the Republican Leadership that the same spirit of compromise and bipartisanship that helped draft the bill will be restored after faith was broken with a one-sided, divisive approach to responding to the Zika virus.

I regret that the Republican leadership cannot give those assurances and therefore are putting an end to appropriations work this summer.

It is my sincere hope that, after the election, both Democrats and Republicans can return to working in good faith to produce a budget bill that includes this very good defense bill, as well as the 11 other appropriations bills that need to be passed before the year is done.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this month marks the 1-year anniversary of the nuclear deal reached between a number of world powers and Iran.

Let's take a moment to step back and recall where we were when President Obama took office.

Our intelligence community assessed that until 2003, Iran was working toward a nuclear bomb.

The reckless war in Iraq further empowered Iran. The country's hardliners moved forward at great speed building suspicious nuclear infrastructure. These efforts produced large and unsettling quantities of highly enriched uranium that could have been used for a nuclear weapon.

Such a weapon in the hands of the Iranian regime would have been an unacceptable risk to the region, to Israel, and to the world.

This is the mess President Obama inherited when he came to office; yet he pledged that Iran would not obtain a nuclear bomb on his watch.

And that is exactly what he did.

He negotiated a comprehensive deal in which Iran pledged to the world not to build a nuclear bomb and agreed to stringent inspections and terms to ensure that Iran keeps that pledge.

And this historic agreement was accomplished without drawing the United States into another war in the Middle East.

You see, despite all the naysayers and efforts to undermine this deal—including an unprecedented letter signed by most in the majority party to the

hardline Iranian Supreme Leader that aimed to undermine our own President's efforts to negotiate a deal—the agreement is working.

As the International Atomic Energy Agency has documented, Iran has shipped more than 8.5 tons, or 98 percent of its stockpile, of enriched uranium to Russia—enriched uranium that no longer poses a threat for use in a nuclear weapon; disabled more than 12,000 centrifuges used to enrich uranium; poured concrete into the core of a reactor at Arak designed to produce plutonium which can also be used to produce a nuclear weapon; removed all nuclear material from its once-secret nuclear facility at Fordow; and allowed comprehensive ongoing inspection by the IAEA to make sure Iran doesn't cheat.

So, instead of a runaway effort to create the fuel and infrastructure needed to build a nuclear bomb within a few months, Iran's ability to build a nuclear weapon is dramatically disabled.

Its breakout time is at least a year—and any effort to do so would almost certainly be caught quickly by the international community.

And equally important, a breach would make any military action against Iran that much easier for those in the international community to get behind.

As President Obama said earlier this year, the deal effectively “cut off every single path Iran could have used to build a bomb.”

In fact, former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon under Prime Minister Netanyahu and harsh critic of diplomacy with Iran recently said that Iran's nuclear program, “has been frozen in light of the deal signed by the world powers and does not constitute an immediate, existential threat for Israel.”

When the nuclear deal was reached last year, I came early to the floor to announce my strong support for this agreement.

I noted that strong countries negotiate with their adversaries and have done so for generations, regardless of who was in the White House at the time, and agreements reached from talking with our enemies have had tremendous benefits to our national security.

The deal with Iran is no different.

Now, I know opponents of the deal, who have spent much of the last year looking for ways to undermine it despite its success, will justify further such efforts by saying Iran's other behavior is problematic.

Well, it is. It was before the nuclear agreement, and it continues to be, whether in Syria or Gaza or Yemen.

Iran continues to repress its own citizens internally, brazenly trying to keep reformers off Iranian election ballots and locking up those who peacefully urge greater freedoms.

But it does those actions without a nuclear weapon.

You see, just as President Kennedy negotiated with the Soviets when they

were threatening possible nuclear war with missiles in Cuba or just as President Nixon began to establish ties with China while it was supplying weapons to the North Koreans who were fighting American soldiers or just as President Reagan negotiated with the Soviet Union even though it was occupying Eastern Europe and fomenting violent revolutions around the world, there are times when such agreements serve our national interests and make the world a somewhat safer place.

This deal with Iran was never about all its genuinely troubling behavior in the region. It was about ending Iran's ability to rapidly or easily make a nuclear bomb.

And that is what it did.

I fully support ongoing efforts to address Iran's ballistic missile program, to halt its support for extremist groups in the region, to forcefully push back on its threats to Israel and other allies in the region.

But these efforts shouldn't be straw men to undermine the nuclear agreement.

And addressing these issues will be far easier without Iran having a nuclear umbrella.

There have been so many decades of mistrust between the United States and Iran.

I myself cannot forget what happened in 1979 when our embassy was seized and more than 60 Americans were held hostage for 444 days. There were mock executions and other inhumane acts. Anyone who is familiar with this story knows the pain these people and their families suffered.

And no one can forget the horrible threats made by some Iranian leaders against the Israeli people or denials of the Holocaust.

Israel has genuine security concerns about Iran. So do I.

But at the end of the day, I believe this agreement is the best way to take one of those concerns—an Iranian nuclear bomb—off the table.

It won't change Iranian behavior overnight, but in the long term, it also has the potential to empower the Iranian moderates—those who want a more open and internationally respected country.

So I want to thank this President and so many of my colleagues here in the Senate who defended this agreement. Quite simply, the dismantling of the Iranian nuclear threat is a remarkable historical achievement.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA MULKA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I want to say a few words about one of my most loyal and reliable aides, Christina Mulka. For nearly a decade, Christina worked in my office, most notably as press secretary and deputy communications director. Later this month, Christina will be moving to Detroit. To say we are going to miss her would be a gross understatement. If you ask my staff, they will tell you

they don't refer to their friend and colleague by her first name. Everyone calls her “Mulka.” There are a lot of Christinas on Capitol Hill, but only one Mulka.

Like many bright young people in Washington, DC, Christina began her career as an intern. In the spring of 2006, I got a call from former Massachusetts Governor and Democratic Presidential candidate—turned college professor—Michael Dukakis. He told me about a student named Christina Mulka at Northeastern University who needed a 6-month internship as part of her co-op program. Internships in my office are never 6 months, but he insisted I give her a chance; and he told me if I did, I wouldn't regret it. Well, 10 years later, he was right.

Not long after Christina's internship ended, I had an opening in my office for a press secretary. Christina was back at Northeastern settling into life as a student. Now, just as internships in my office are never 6 months, press secretaries in my office almost always have a college degree. But just as we did before, we made an exception for Christina—and I hired her before she graduated. She moved back to Washington, DC, and completed her degree while earning a paycheck from the U.S. Senate. It was the second time I made an exception for Christina Mulka. And let me tell you, she didn't disappoint.

For years, Christina served as my on-the-record spokesperson for Illinois media inquiries. Simply put, she had an extraordinary knack for dealing with Illinois reporters. Whenever I wrote an editorial, I could always count on Christina to work diligently to find a newspaper to print it. As many Senate press staffers will tell you, this is no small task. Despite working in Washington, DC, she maintained close connections with Illinois reporters. Every reporter and news outlet felt valued and in the loop because Christina valued everyone. That is who she is. She treated them all the same, big or small. Whether it was Chicago or Springfield, Quincy or Belleville, Carbondale or Mattoon, she truly cared that news outlets throughout Illinois were informed about what was happening in Washington, DC.

Christina worked well with my policy staff to understand the issues. She was always well prepared to promote my priorities, agenda, and ideas to help the people of Illinois. I had such confidence in her that, over time, her portfolio expanded to include many issues that I would list as my top priorities, including tobacco, dietary supplements, for-profit colleges, and the Marketplace Fairness Act.

Let me tell you a story about one of my first memories of Christina. She was staffing me during a round of Illinois TV interviews here in Washington, DC. Opening Day was right around the corner, and a lot of questions were about baseball, specifically the Chicago Cubs. When the interviews were over, she turned to me and apologized for not

prepping me better on the Chicago White Sox. I didn't know it at the time, but Christina is a White Sox fanatic. And during the interviews, she wanted me to steer the conversation away from the Cubs to her team, the Chicago White Sox—what a loyal fan.

Christina hails from Lisle, IL, but her family roots go back to the south side of Chicago, in a neighborhood known as the Back of the Yards—which explains her fierce loyalty to the White Sox. Sports have always played an important role in Christina's life. At Northeastern, she cocaptained the rowing squad and was chosen as the National Scholar Athlete by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association. A dean's list honoree and honors program participant, Christina also was a finalist for the Walter Byers Scholarship, the NCAA's highest academic award, recognizing student athletes who promise to be future leaders. Boy, did they get it right. Whatever the next chapter holds for Christina, she will be a leader.

Following Christina's promotion to deputy communications director, I saw her leadership skills flourish. She became a role model and mentor to junior press staff, allowing them to develop professionally just as she had done over the years. It was a pleasure to watch her energy, motivation, and spirit of service rub off on so many others.

In 2013, Christina took on another challenge, enrolling in Georgetown University's master in business administration program. For many, this would distract from their day job, but not Christina. It wasn't uncommon for her to work a full day, go to class for 2 to 3 hours, and be back in the office at 10 p.m., ensuring that nothing was missed. Despite the long hours, juggling work and school, she never missed a beat.

Now, Christina is off to pursue a new adventure. She found herself a great partner in Brad Carroll. Their wedding is in a few months. They are moving back to the Midwest—Detroit will be their new home—closer to her family in the suburbs of Chicago. And I want to thank the whole Mulka family for sharing Christina with our office for the last 10 years—her parents, Diana and Tom, and her younger sister and brother, Stephanie and Nick.

Christina joined this office with a high school diploma, and she is leaving after many years of serving the people of Illinois with a college degree, a graduate degree, and many friends and colleagues who will miss her. I couldn't be happier for her as she moves on to the next chapter in her life with Brad.

I will close with this: While at Northeastern, Christina developed her interest in public service with the help of Michael Dukakis. Recently, at a Northeastern Capitol Hill alumni event, Christina ran into her old mentor. She told him about her engagement and upcoming move to Detroit. His face lit up, and he immediately encouraged her

to run for mayor. I am not surprised. To know Christina Mulka is to expect big things from her. I am proud of the work she has done and will do, but more importantly, I am proud of the person she has become. Congratulations on a job well done, and best of luck.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the compound motion to go to conference on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion. The final vote on this motion was 90 to 7, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

The National Defense Authorization Act specifies the budget and expenditures of the Department of Defense. This legislation is essential to support our men and women in uniform and to defend our Nation. I voted in favor of this legislation on final passage in the Senate.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on Senator SHAHEEN's motion to instruct the conferees on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. This motion to instruct would increase the number of visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa, SIV, program. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion. The final vote on this legislation/motion was 84 to 12, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

The Afghan Special Immigrant Visa, SIV, program has served an important role in protecting Afghan allies who risk their safety, as well as the safety of their families, in order to help our troops serving in Afghanistan. This program is supported by two former commanders of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, retired Generals McChrystal and Campbell, who both acknowledge how crucial the SIV program is to our national security and to our allies.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on Senator SULLIVAN's motion to instruct conferees on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act. This motion would help implement President Obama's announcement to maintain troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as improve the capacity of the NATO Alliance. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion. The final vote on this legislation-motion was 85 to 12, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

I support this motion to instruct conferees because the proposal would strengthen our fight against ISIS and our security partnership with European allies. Last week, President

Obama announced that the United States will maintain a force of approximately 8,400 U.S. military servicemembers in Afghanistan through 2017. These servicemen and women will continue to train and advise Afghan Forces and conduct counterterrorism operations. In order to maintain the progress that global coalition made against the Taliban during Operation Enduring Freedom and to prevent the spread of ISIS in the region, it is essential to authorize these operations.

As we work to fight terrorism abroad by increasing our efforts to build and lead the international coalition against ISIS, we must also confront the threat that Russia poses. That means we need to increase capacity and operational responsiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. At the NATO Summit in Warsaw this month, President Obama and our allies pledged to increase the capacity of the European Reassurance Initiative. This is essential to deter Russian aggression and ensure that one of our most vital defense alliances is able to respond to evolving threats. The U.S. troops who will participate in the increased rotational presence in Poland represent a necessary response to Russia's increased aggression and provocation in the region.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5293, the fiscal year 2017 Defense Appropriations Act. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted against invoking cloture, as I did on July 6, 2016. The final vote on this motion was 55 to 42, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

Congress passed a bipartisan agreement, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which outlines funding levels for 2016 and 2017. Attempts to circumvent the Bipartisan Budget Act are a violation of that agreement.

Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to invoke cloture upon reconsideration on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations. I missed the vote today because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to invoke cloture, as I did on June 28, 2016. The final vote on this motion today was 52 to 44, and my absence did not impact the outcome.

On May 19, 2016, I voted for the Senate version of the 2017 appropriations legislation to fund military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs when the Senate passed that bill by an overwhelming majority of 89–8. However, this conference report does not reflect the Senate position and instead slashes \$500 million from our military and our veterans when compared to the funding levels included in the bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

This conference report also includes certain policy riders I do not agree with attached to the funding that the

Senate originally included to combat the Zika virus. The conferees also decided to offset these emergency funds by cutting funding for other important initiatives including funding that is continuing to be used to combat the outbreak of the Ebola virus. When faced with an emergency, whether it is a devastating weather event like a tornado or a hurricane or a public health threat, we come together as Americans to ensure that we are providing the necessary resources to our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Including controversial offsets to the Zika emergency response funding only causes unnecessary delay and prevents assistance from getting to the health care professionals, researchers, and others who need these resources to combat the Zika virus.●

NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW, who serves as the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and is a lead sponsor of the GMO labeling bill, S. 764, approved by the Senate on July 7, 2016. I would like to seek a clarification regarding the intent with regard to a provision in the bill that relates to consistency with the Organic Foods Production Act and related rules and regulations.

Specifically, section 293(f) of the bill states that:

“[t]he Secretary shall consider establishing consistency between—

(1) the national bioengineered food disclosure standard established under this section; and

(2) the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regulations implementing that Act.”

Given this provision, I would like clarification from my colleague that nothing in this legislation would require USDA to change the Organic Foods Production Act rules or regulations to comport with the new bioengineered food disclosure standard and definitions created by S. 764, as passed by the Senate on July 7, 2016.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Senator from Wisconsin for engaging on this issue and seeking clarification on this point. S. 764 amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. S. 764 does not amend the Organic Foods Production Act or its rules or regulations. More specifically, section 293(f) is only intended to require that USDA consider aligning the rules and regulations of the new GMO disclosure program established under this bill with the rules and regulations of the existing National Organic Program, not the inverse. Again, I will clarify that S. 764 does not provide any authority to amend the Organic Foods Production Act or its rules and regulations.

In addition, I would draw to the attention of my colleague another sec-

tion of this bill, section 292(b), which states:

“(b) APPLICATION OF DEFINITION.—The definition of the term ‘bioengineering’ under section 291 shall not affect any other definition, program, rule, or regulation of the Federal Government.”

I believe this provision clarifies that nothing in the new bioengineered food disclosure standard established in this legislation would require USDA to take any action to change the existing Organic Foods Production Act rules and regulations.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, we have a problem in our court system. We currently have 83 judicial vacancies, and 29 of these are considered judicial emergency vacancies because they have been vacant so long or because the case backlog is so severe. There is a simple reason we have this problem: Senate Republicans refuse to do their job and confirm judicial nominees. This is the case from the Supreme Court, with the outrageous and unprecedented obstruction of Judge Merrick Garland, to the Federal Courts of Appeals, where it took more than a year for Judge Felipe Restrepo to be confirmed to the Third Circuit, down to the District Courts, where the number of vacancies has skyrocketed under Republican leadership.

We haven’t always had this problem, and there is no good reason we have it now. Eight years ago this week, when Democrats controlled the Senate and President Bush was in the White House, there were a total of 39 vacancies in the court system. In the last 2 years of the Bush Presidency, the Senate confirmed 68 judges, compared to just 22 judges confirmed to date in President Obama’s final 2 years.

Pennsylvania currently has five pending judicial nominees. One, Rebecca Haywood, is an excellent nominee for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She is extremely well-qualified and deserves timely consideration and a vote. The other four are district court nominees, all distinguished judges nominated with bipartisan support from my colleague Senator TOOMEY. Two of these nominees, Susan Baxter and Marilyn Horan, passed out of the Judiciary Committee with unanimous support by voice vote. They are among the 24 judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar awaiting confirmation votes. These nominees have been vetted and unanimously deemed qualified by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and there is simply no legitimate reason to block their confirmation. They deserve an immediate vote.

Pennsylvania’s other two distinguished district court nominees, John Younge and Robert Colville, are equally qualified to be excellent Federal judges; yet, inexplicably, Senate Republicans have blocked them from even getting a committee vote. So they remain, for no legitimate reason, stuck

with the 26 other judicial nominees awaiting committee consideration.

This extreme level of obstructionism has serious consequences for Americans seeking access to the courthouse. In 2015, 361,689 cases were filed in the U.S. district courts, increasing the total number of pending cases by 3 percent in just a single year to 438,808. In Pennsylvania alone, 16,609 new cases were filed in our three districts in 2015. How are the courts supposed to give full and fair consideration to all of these cases if they are understaffed?

The glacial pace of judicial confirmations is, quite simply, hurting the system of justice in this country. The obstruction is not only preventing access to justice by creating huge backlogs of cases, but is also damaging the integrity of the judiciary by politicizing nominees who should remain independent and nonpartisan. Senate Republicans need to do their job and immediately schedule votes to confirm the pending judicial nominees in Pennsylvania and around the country.

EXTENDING ADVANCED ENERGY TAX CREDITS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to enter into a colloquy with the senior Senator from South Carolina in regards to the bipartisan efforts to extend the investment tax credits for advanced energy technologies.

As you know, the investment tax credit incentives for fuel cells and other small alternative-power technologies—including microturbines, combined heat and power, small wind, and thermal energy—in section 48 of the Tax Code expires at the end of this year. These advanced energy technologies are finally transitioning from development to commercialization and are playing a critical role in making energy in this country more resilient, reliable, and less vulnerable to fuel price hikes.

For example, fuel cells, which I know well from being produced in my home State of Delaware, are already being used to provide reliable power to first responders, manufacturers, and retail companies. Fuel cells ensure critical facilities continue to have electricity, even when grid power is unavailable. Fuel cells are U.S. invented, U.S. manufactured, and run on U.S. natural gas. This technology is a win-win for energy security, job growth, and the economy.

As you can imagine, these emerging alternative-energy companies require predictable tax credits beyond the end of 2016 for R&D, capitalization, and cash flow reasons. Delays in extending these tax credits could put hundreds of manufacturing jobs in my State, in my friend from South Carolina’s State, and thousands of jobs across the country at risk.

At the end of last year, it seemed our message about the urgency of extending all of these section 48 tax credits was heard loud and clear. During negotiations on the year-end tax extenders

package last December, there was bipartisan agreement to extend all of the section 48 tax credits through the end of 2021. Unfortunately, due to a simple case of human error, the extension of these tax credits was accidentally excluded during the final drafting of the tax legislation. Solar and wind were extended as part of the agreement, but five other small alternative-power technologies were inadvertently excluded.

This mistake was identified within hours of the bill text being released, but unfortunately, due to time constraints and the desire to move expeditiously, House and Senate leaders determined that modifications to correct this mistake were not possible at the time. Instead, there was a bipartisan agreement to work together to address this mistake early in 2016.

Let me say to my colleague, I know we have missed some opportunities to get this issue resolved, but I would welcome the opportunity to work with him, his staff, and other colleagues to find ways to get these advanced energy credits extended. I believe we still have opportunities to get this done, but we cannot afford further delays. Would the Senator be willing to work with my staff and me?

Mr. GRAHAM. I want to thank the senior Senator from Delaware for raising this important issue. I would be happy to work with him on this issue because, as my friend and colleague from Delaware knows, my State of South Carolina is already seeing firsthand the benefits these advanced energy technologies are having on the local economy. As my friend from Delaware mentioned, this is a bipartisan and bicameral effort, and I believe we can find a way to get this done.

Mr. CARPER. I would like to thank the senior Senator from South Carolina for his support and thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in both Chambers, that are working so hard to get this issue resolved as soon as possible this year. I thank the Senator.

THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES BILL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, with a weeks-long recess upon us, sometimes opportunities to make history get lost. I am going to take a few minutes to describe an historic opportunity to help vulnerable families and children at risk. I hope my colleagues rise to the occasion when Congress resumes its legislative work in September.

The bipartisan, bicameral legislation called the Family First Prevention Services Act would give new hope to hundreds of thousands of children and their families. It would, for the first time, allow States to permanently invest Federal foster care dollars to safely keep families together, instead of ripping them apart. It passed the House by voice vote at the end of last month, and in my view, it ought to be an easy

bipartisan win. I remain hopeful the Senate will come together to pass it in the months ahead.

I want to take a few minutes to look back at how this proposal came together before describing what it can accomplish. In the mid-1990s, there was a debate in the Congress as to whether sending kids to orphanages was the right idea. It was obvious, in my view, that there had to be better alternatives.

Along with many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, I saw an opportunity for our child welfare policies to empower and unite families, so I authored the Kinship Care Act. It said that aunts or uncles or grandparents who met the right standards would be notified and have first preference when it came to caring for a niece or nephew or grandchild. It was the first Federal law of its kind. And over the past two decades Congress, in a bipartisan manner, has built on that framework.

Two years ago, I became chairman of the Finance Committee, and I wanted to continue that progress and keep building on those values because, even though the 1990s are long gone, the foster care system is still badly flawed. When you look at the child welfare policies on the books today, you see big incentives for breaking families up. You don't see anywhere near enough incentive for keeping families together and helping them heal and thrive. It is a system that boxes families into two often bad options: foster care or nothing at all. So 2 years ago, I began working on legislation to change that.

I put forward a proposal in 2015 called the Family Stability and Kinship Care Act. In the months that followed, I worked with Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate and the House on a bipartisan path forward. Last month, Chairman HATCH and I, along with Ways and Means Chairman BRADY, Ranking Member SANDER LEVIN, and Congressman VERN BUCHANAN in the House, introduced our bipartisan, bicameral bill. Here is what our legislation would do.

First, it takes the current system that is rife with flaws and turns it on its head. Instead of paying a dollar for families to be split up, the bill says, let's see if it is possible to use that dollar to help a family stay together. Let's see if that dollar can keep a youngster safe at home, where he or she is most likely to be healthy and happy and succeed in school.

Remember that most youngsters in foster care aren't there because of physical or sexual abuse. Kids predominantly wind up in foster care because of circumstances that lead to neglect. Maybe Mom or Dad needs help dealing with a child's behavioral issues. Maybe they need substance abuse treatment. Maybe a relative could step in and help, especially if they have support.

It provides critical assistance to families struggling with addiction to opioids or other substances. It invests

in programs that help fight child abuse and neglect. And lastly, it takes what I believe are vital steps to prioritize safety by setting basic standards for foster care facilities and group homes.

I want to focus on that last point for a moment. Some troubled or abused youngsters have been through such severe trauma that they need the kind of help they can only get in a temporary, high-quality treatment facility. They are kids who struggle with mental health illnesses or behavioral problems, young people recovering from addiction, or victims of sex trafficking. The support they need is unique, and they need access to reliable care in a safe place. But those placements need to be an intervention, not a destination. In my view, when they are able, children should have the opportunity to reunite with kin or join a foster or adoptive family.

For the first time, our bill would lay down basic standards so that youngsters don't have to face the prospect of growing up in those circumstances. These are standards guided by the states and laid out to protect kids. They are designed to raise the bar for group homes and make sure that children aren't sent away and forgotten. In my view, this policy is a no-brainer.

I understand a small handful of States have raised concerns about this legislation. The concerns essentially revolve around three common points.

First, I have heard concerns that there will not be enough family foster homes to meet demand. It is true that across the country, many states are facing severe shortages in family foster homes. That is why the bill invests new funding for competitive grants to improve foster parent recruitment and retention. Moreover, the whole premise of the bill is to prevent children from unnecessarily entering foster care in the first place. States across the country have shown they can safely reduce foster care and in so doing, reduce the demand for foster homes. And let's not forget, States would have over 3 years before these new group home standards come into effect giving more than adequate time to plan for the changes.

A second concern I have heard is that there is too much rigidity when it comes to licensing standards, accreditation, and assessment requirements for children placed in residential treatment programs for youth in need of higher levels of care. The sponsors of the legislation as well as the Department of Health and Human Services have made it abundantly clear that there is significant flexibility in these provisions of the bill. With respect to child welfare law, there is no statutory or regulatory definition for what constitutes "licensed clinical and nursing staff." A wide variety of models could be used to meet these criteria. What we must not lose sight of is the fact that the terminology in this bill is based on what we know is in the best interest of children. The standards laid out in this bill are supported by the American

Academy of Pediatrics, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Children's Defense Fund, and over 130 other organizations.

A third concern I have heard is that the time frame for assessing youth to determine whether they need residential treatment is too short. Under the legislation, a State can receive a Federal match for up to 2 weeks for any foster care placement that is allowable under current law. That means placements like child care institutions, shelters, group homes, and family foster homes for up to 2 weeks. After those 2 weeks, in order to receive a Federal match for room and board, a child may only be served in a family foster home, a supervised independent living placement for youth 18 and older, a facility specializing in serving pregnant and parenting youth, or a qualified residential treatment program. If a child is served in a qualified residential treatment program, the State still has up to 30 days to perform an assessment. That means the State has up to 6 weeks to perform assessments to determine the appropriateness of a child's placement. And even then, if the residential treatment program is deemed NOT to be in the child's best interest, the State has an additional 30 days to receive Federal funding on behalf of that child to find a more appropriate placement. That adds up to nearly 3 months for the States to continue to receive Federal funding while determining the best placement for a child. Let me tell you, 10 weeks is a long time in the life of a vulnerable kid and should be plenty of time to find an appropriate placement.

In addition to these technical questions, some just say the change is coming too fast. For example, a newspaper recently reported that officials in one particular State warned the bill "could worsen the state's already worrisome shortage of foster care beds. . . ." and that it could "disqualify about 3,000 slots in group homes and institutional settings" from Federal financial help. To my mind, it can be too easy in this debate to lose sight of the fact that right now, a lot of vulnerable youngsters are in desperate circumstances. So let's focus for a moment on the question of group homes in that particular State.

Last year, the State in question lost a class-action lawsuit over its foster care program. The lawsuit found that the State violated the constitutional rights of foster children by exposing them to unreasonable risks in a system where children "often age out of care more damaged than when they entered." I want to repeat that finding because, in my view, it speaks volumes, that children "often age out of care more damaged than when they entered."

The U.S. district judge who wrote the decision directed the State to stop placing certain children in unsafe settings such as foster group homes that

lack 24-hour supervision. At question was whether group homes should continue to operate at all, given concerns that they cause "an unreasonable risk of harm" to foster children. The court heard testimony that, in foster group homes that mix younger children with older children, sexual abuse "is usual rather than unusual." The court heard stories of one foster boy who was "sexually abused almost every night by one of the bigger boys in the home," while the caretakers were asleep on the other side of the house. So in my judgement, if that is the way things are now, then that is a situation that cries out for change. It is time to take a fresh approach that will do a better job of protecting kids and families.

Here is my bottom line. The weight of the status quo is severe, and it falls heaviest on the thousands of foster kids living in quiet struggle.

Doing nothing is easy, I realize that. But it is long past time for the Congress to overcome the inertia of the status quo. And the fact is most of the reforms you are seeing today are incremental—foisted upon States in decrees, settlement agreements, and court orders in class action lawsuits.

My home State of Oregon is no exception. Oregon's Department of Human Services was just hit by a \$60 million lawsuit. Too often, States fail to provide for the most basic safety for these vulnerable kids, and that is why advocates are turning to the courts for change.

In recent years, the advocacy organization Children's Rights has filed class action lawsuits in Arizona, Connecticut, D.C., Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Absent reforms and partnership with the Federal Government, unfortunately, these types of lawsuits that produce only slow improvements will continue to be one of few clear avenues to drive change. It is time Congress stepped up. The standards laid out in this bill are supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Defense Fund and countless others. The experts agree with our premise, that group home care should be used only when it is clinically necessary.

This bill is not perfect, but no legislation is ever perfect. I have been clear that there will be opportunities—both through the regulatory and legislative processes—to strengthen this legislation and build on it. But in my judgement, this bill gets us closer to a world where foster care is needed less often, a system where the priority is keeping children and families together.

If this bill were to come before the Senate in an up-or-down vote, I believe it would sail through on a bipartisan basis. It is the right policy for kids, and it is the right policy for taxpayers, whose investments in foster care today

aren't helping children and families the way they should.

I urge my colleagues to support the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Senate can and must get this done in the months ahead and send it to the president's desk.

As civil rights icon Marian Wright Edelman said, "Don't make our most vulnerable children wait longer" for the help they need.

ANNIVERSARY AND REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, 51 years ago today—July 14, 1965—President Johnson signed the Older Americans Act into law, solidifying our commitment to America's seniors and creating critical programs to ensure that all Americans can age with dignity and security. I am very pleased that President Obama signed the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act on April 19, 2016. My view is that a nation is judged not by how many billionaires and millionaires it has, but instead by how it treats the most vulnerable people among us.

I would like to thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY for their efforts in getting this reauthorization passed into law. I would also like to acknowledge the many organizations representing tens of millions of Americans who worked with me and my staff to get this bill to President Obama, including the National Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels America, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and others.

Every day in my State of Vermont and around this country, millions of seniors are struggling with the difficult choice they must make with their limited budgets—whether to buy food, medicine, or keep a roof over their heads. These are not the choices seniors in this country should be forced to make.

More than half of older households have no retirement savings and are just one bad fall or illness away from economic catastrophe. The Older Americans Act provides important long-term services and supports that help keep older Vermonters and seniors across this country healthy and out of poverty. The Older Americans Act provides a broad range of services including home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation services, family caregiver support, preventive health services, and many supportive services. The law also funds job training, legal assistance, and elder abuse prevention and protection services.

I, along with my staff, worked on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act for the past several years. During that time, we held hearings on senior hunger and convened listening sessions with advocacy groups to learn more about the best way to extend these programs. What I heard over and over

again was simple: The law is working well, but it needs more funding to keep up with rising costs and a growing senior population. We must protect and expand funding for these important programs.

The simple fact is the amount of funding dedicated for these important programs is a disgrace. As a point of comparison, while funding for other programs has risen by 11 percent since 2009, Older Americans Act funding has dropped 7 percent over that same time. Funding for these crucial programs has not even kept up with inflation. That is why, for the past several years, I have led an appropriations request letter asking for a 12 percent increase in funding for the Older Americans Act. A 12 percent increase would make a meaningful difference for states struggling to provide services to their growing senior populations.

Some of the most important and well-known services funded by the Older Americans Act are the meals programs, often provided by Meals on Wheels. A Government Accountability Office, GAO, report I requested last year found that fewer than 10 percent of low-income seniors who needed a meal delivered to their homes in 2013 received one. The study also found that one in three low-income seniors are "food insecure," yet fewer than 5 percent receive a meal at home or at a senior center. That is unacceptable.

Investing in senior nutrition programs is not only the moral thing to do, it is the financially smart thing to do. Proper nutrition can keep people out of long-term care and emergency rooms. Meal delivery is also a good opportunity for visiting with an isolated senior who might otherwise go days without seeing another person.

Another critical OAA program is the Senior Community Service Employment Program, SCSEP, which provides job training and employment services for older adults. Seniors are matched with part-time jobs at organizations in the community and many times these positions turn into permanent employment, increasing seniors' financial security.

Senior centers are another important way the Older Americans Act supports the needs of seniors in our communities. The reauthorization includes some policy changes to modernize senior centers to help ensure people are taking part in activities like group meals, afternoon activities, and exercise classes.

Another crucial service I strongly hope receives full funding is the Senior Medicare Patrol Program, SMP, which helps protect seniors and their families from health care fraud, errors, and abuse. We have bipartisan agreement that this is an important, cost-saving program, and if Congress does not appropriate sufficient funding for SMP, then those funds should be distributed from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program so the program does not experience a cut.

I am pleased that this title II of this bill continues funding for several important resource and information centers, including the Pension Counseling Program and the National Education and Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning. These programs serve older adults across the nation by providing much-needed information on pensions, retirement issues, and avoiding poverty and financial fraud.

The number of Americans age 60 and over will grow from about 65 million today to 92 million by 2030. Our most vulnerable populations need to see that we care and are here to serve and support them.

Funding must keep up with the increases we see in the cost of living for seniors, including housing, food, transportation, and prescription drugs. The Older Americans Act reauthorization had the unanimous consent of all Senate and House Members and committed to a 7 percent increase in funding over the next 3 years. I am hopeful my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee will use their authority to continue to meet or exceed this funding goal for these critically important programs. I will continue to advocate strongly for these funding increases.

The truth is that the priorities we hold—treating seniors with respect, making sure seniors have the support they need—have the overwhelming support of the American people. These principles are among the foundations of a just and fair society where people look forward to growing old. I thank my Senate and House colleagues for their support of this important reauthorization bill and President Obama for signing it into law. I am pleased to recognize the anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act today.

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, July 9, 2016, marked the 95th anniversary of the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, legislation that has changed the lives of thousands of native Hawaiians in the State of Hawaii.

This legislation was made possible by the vision of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole.

After the annexation of Hawaii, Prince Kuhio continued to serve his people as Hawaii's second delegate in Congress.

When Prince Kuhio took office in 1902, he was determined to improve the lives of native Hawaiians. Although he served as a nonvoting delegate, he championed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to create a trust of nearly 200,000 acres of land that previously belonged to the monarchs of the Hawaiian Kingdom. By setting aside this land, Congress intended to ensure the livelihood of native Hawaiians, whose population had been reduced from as many as, according to some estimates, 800,000 prior to 1778 to a little over 20,000 by 1920.

In a letter that Prince Kuhio circulated to the Senate in 1920, he shared the results of an extensive investigation and survey that noted the exceedingly high mortality rate of native Hawaiians. The survey justified the need to return native Hawaiians to the land, to reconnect with their sense of place, and elevate their well-being by providing stable housing and opportunities to improve their livelihood. Prince Kuhio shepherded the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act through both the House and Senate, and President Warren Harding signed the bill into law on July 9, 1921.

In 1924, the first homestead in Kalamaula on the island of Molokai became home to 42 Native Hawaiians who began harvesting vegetables and raising animals to sell at local markets.

Today nearly 10,000 Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and their families live on agricultural, pastoral, or residential homestead lots in over 60 communities across Hawaii.

With Hawaii's admission into the Union in 1959, the State of Hawaii was tasked with administering the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, a responsibility primarily led by the State's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. At the Federal level, Congress has continued to live up to its commitments to the Hawaiian community, first established by the HHCA, through continued funding for programs focused on planning, development, housing construction, and home loan programs to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in its mission, as well as home loans and guarantees to support Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries.

On the 95th anniversary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, we recognize and thank Prince Kuhio for his vision and sincere aloha for the well-being of Native Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act has made a difference in thousands of lives and set the foundation for acknowledging the trust relationship between the Native Hawaiian community and the Federal Government. Today the Federal Government continues this trust relationship by providing funds to support housing, health care, education, and other resources for the benefit of the Native Hawaiian community.

However, there is still much to be done to assist Hawaii's indigenous population. I will continue to work with Congress, the executive branch, the State of Hawaii, and the Native Hawaiian community to not only safeguard Prince Kuhio's landmark legislation and legacy, but to ensure it, and the community he worked so hard to assist, will continue to thrive.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL, during its 75th anniversary year.

MacDill's humble start began during its construction when aircrews of the 29th Bomber Group landed their B-17 Flying Fortress bombers on a nearby dirt airstrip in farmer John Drew's fields after flying antisubmarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico. Later named Drew Field, this strip is now known as Tampa International Airport.

Formally dedicated on April 16, 1941, MacDill was primarily known for training bomber aircrews of the III Bomber Command. Intrepid but inexperienced crews learning to fly B-26 Marauder bombers at MacDill were glad of Tampa's warm climate when ditching their aircraft in the waters surrounding the field. The regularity of this occurrence prompted air crews to jokingly coin the phrase "Once a day in Tampa Bay."

MacDill proved its strategic significance during World War II as an anti-submarine patrol and air defense base home to B-24A Liberators of the 44th Bomber Group and Seversky P-35 aircraft of the 53rd Pursuit Group. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, MacDill again displayed its geographical importance, serving as a prime location for staging B-47 Stratojet and B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft.

Transitioning from a primarily bomber base once home to the famed B-17 Memphis Belle, MacDill became a Tactical Air Command installation flying the F-84 Thunderstreak jet fighter. From the 1960s through the early 1980s, F-4 Phantom II fighters filled its skies, followed by F-16 Fighting Falcons in the 1980s and 1990s. The base is now an Air Mobility Command installation, home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing and its 310th Airlift Squadron and the 91st Air Refueling Squadron.

MacDill is also home to the headquarters of two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: U.S. Central Command, whose area of operations encompasses the Middle East and parts of North Africa and Central Asia, and U.S. Special Operations Command, tasked with oversight of the component special operations units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Non-Department of Defense tenants of MacDill Air Force Base include the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center, which operates the NOAA "Hurricane Hunter" fleet of WP-3D Orion and Gulfstream V aircraft. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also conducts its antimedfly operations out of MacDill.

More than 13,000 military and civilian personnel are involved in operations at MacDill, and the surrounding community is home to approximately 170,000 retirees who use health and welfare services on the base. MacDill is a vital economic driver for the Tampa Bay area and is not only a source of jobs for the community, but also a welcome source of pride in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I am confident that MacDill Air Force Base will remain an important strategic installation for our military and continue to play an important role in protecting the safety of Floridians and all Americans. I am proud to honor its 75 great years of service.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEST BUY

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to speak to honor the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy was founded in 1966 as a stereo store called the Sound of Music in St. Paul, MN. Since then, it has grown from that one store into a Fortune 100 company with over 1,000 locations across the U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico.

In 1966, Richard M. Schultze—a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard—and Gary Smoliak opened the Sound of Music on the corner of Hamline and St. Clair Avenues in St. Paul. By 1969, Schultze assumed sole control of the company, which had grown to three stores and was listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market.

Then in 1981, disaster and inspiration struck. The Sound of Music store located in Roseville, MN, was hit by a tornado which tore the roof off the building and destroyed the showroom. Schultze showed the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit characteristic of Minnesota. He decided to have a "tornado sale" in the Roseville's store's parking lot and promised "best buys" on everything. Needless to say, the sale was a success.

The Sound of Music was renamed Best Buy Company, Inc., in 1983 and had grown to seven stores and \$10 million in annual sales. Later that year, Best Buy opened its first megastore in Burnsville, MN.

By 1992, Best Buy had reached \$1 billion in revenues. In 1999, Best Buy was added to the Standard and Poor's 500 index. Best Buy has consistently been one of the Minnesota-headquartered companies in the Fortune 500 and currently ranks 71st on the Fortune 500 nationally. And Best Buy was named company of the year by Forbes in 2004.

So why do people shop at Best Buy? Maybe it is because they have updated their showrooms and a commission-free salesforce. Or maybe it is the wide range of products, interactive touchscreens kiosks and the demonstration areas for home theater systems and computer software. Best Buy also pioneered the concept of specialized in-store customer service areas by establishing a Geek Squad unit in each store.

Best Buy has also been a good corporate citizen in Minnesota. Since 2007, Best Buy Company has generously given over \$50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota nonprofits. And they don't just care about

people, they also care about the planet. Best Buy operates the largest retail consumer electronics and e-waste recycling collection program in the U.S. Over 1 billion pounds of recycling has been handed over to certified recyclers helping to keep the environment clean. Best Buy has also been named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency top-100 list of green-power purchasers.

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I join my colleague in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy's innovation and leadership has turned a once small, Minnesota company into the successful and responsible multinational corporation it is today. They are a vital component of the Minnesota economy and integral to our communities, and in celebration of their anniversary, I would like to take some time to recognize their important work to tackle one of the most pressing issues facing our society today: climate change.

Climate change is a very serious threat to our planet, and Best Buy has risen to the challenge by taking proactive steps to reduce their carbon footprint. They have joined with other major American companies in signing the White House's American Business Act on Climate Pledge. As part of the pledge, Best Buy has committed to reducing carbon emissions in their operations by 45 percent of 2009 levels by 2020, which builds on the 26 percent emissions reduction they have already achieved. As a company committed to delivering sustainable technology solutions, Best Buy also committed to continue offering an assortment of energy-efficient products to help consumers reduce their carbon footprint, too. Best Buy's pledge represents a collaboration between government and industry to address climate change and take serious action now.

They have also taken steps to protect our environment by helping consumers responsibly dispose of their electronic goods. Their recycling program has grown into the largest retail recycling program in the nation and, to date, has processed over 1 billion pounds of consumer electronic devices and appliances. Their dedication to sustainable practices has a meaningful impact on the future of our planet.

Best Buy's continued excellence serves as a model to other businesses throughout the State and across the Nation, and I congratulate them on 50 years of business.

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank my colleague for his statement and agree.

Best Buy started with one store in St. Paul 50 years ago. It is now a multinational company with 125,000 employees who give back to their communities and work to reduce the impact of used electronics on the environment.

For 50 years, Best Buy has brought the latest consumer technology and electronics products and services to its customers and remains a proud Minnesota company. That is why I am proud to honor Best Buy. •

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the paper and forest products industry to support their advancement of six sustainability goals.

There are about 18,000 hard-working men and women employed by the forest products industry in the State of Maine where we have about 40 wood products and paper manufacturing facilities contributing over \$900 million to the economy through jobs and wages and over \$4 billion in industry shipments of products, making the forest products industry one of the largest manufacturing sectors in our State.

Sustainability is inherent to the pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry. These products are made from renewable and recyclable resources, and these companies have a good track record of managing natural resources in order to ensure they can continue making useful products in the future.

In 2011, the industry established the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 initiative pursuing one of the most extensive sets of sustainability goals established for a U.S. manufacturing industry.

By 2020, the Better Practices, Better Planets goals aim to exceed 70 percent paper recovery for recycling, improve purchased energy efficiency by at least 10 percent, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from member facilities by at least 15 percent, increase the amount of fiber procured from certified forestlands or through certified fiber sourcing programs in the U.S. from 2005 to 2020 and work to decrease illegal logging, improve worker safety by 25 percent, with a broader vision of zero industry injuries, and reduce water use in member facilities by 12 percent.

This week the American Forest & Paper Association released their 2016 report on the industry's performance. The industry works with government agencies, communities and other stakeholders to employ advanced sustainability practices benefitting the economy, environment and society and transparently reports on their performance. I am pleased to announce that the industry has met the greenhouse gas emissions and safety goals ahead of schedule.

These companies are committed to sustainability along the entire value chain, starting with the renewable resources they acquire to make their products. AF&PA members procured 98 percent of their fiber through certified fiber sourcing programs and have also increased the amount of fiber procured from certified forestlands to 29 percent.

Also, AF&PA companies are strong proponents of international efforts to suppress illegal logging and to reduce the demand for illegally harvested forest products.

AF&PA's mandatory Environment, Health & Safety Principles require that members have health and safety policies in place. Implementing worker

training, increased automation, and a host of injury preventive measures and safeguards allowed AF&PA members to reduce their incidence rate by 40.8 percent between 2006 and 2014. These companies are committed to continue to look for new ways to reach their aspirational goal of zero workplace injuries.

The industry's purchased energy efficiency improved by 8.1 percent due to investments in energy efficiency projects. Many pulp and paper mills are largely energy self-sufficient, 56 percent of electricity needed to power manufacturing processes was self-generated, and, in some cases, supplying energy to the electric utility grid.

Improved energy efficiency and the use of less carbon-intensive fuels and carbon-neutral biomass enabled the industry to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. These companies reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 16 percent, surpassing the goal of 15-percent reduction.

Water is a valuable natural resource and a vital component of the paper-making process. The forest products industry directly returns about 88 percent of the water it withdraws and uses in its manufacturing processes. Ongoing technology and innovation enable water to be reused and recycled 10 times, on average, throughout the pulp and paper mill process before it is treated in a wastewater system and returned to the environment. So far, water use at these pulp and paper mills was reduced by 6.5 percent since 2005.

The industry's commitment to sustainability extends beyond the manufacturing process: More than 60 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling each year since 2009, reaching a record 66.8 percent in 2015.

Paper recovery success is possible thanks to the millions of Americans who continue to recycle at home, work, and school every day. In 2014, 96 percent of the U.S. population had access to community curbside and/or drop-off paper recycling services. AF&PA works to promote paper recovery by creating materials to educate consumers about best recycling practices.

I ask my colleagues to join us in congratulating this industry on taking steps to improve environmental performance, continue economic progress and support our communities. I am proud of this industry's progress and their continued commitment to advance sustainability performance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER LEARNING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to stress the importance of providing young people with safe places to learn during the summer months. Summer is in full swing, and families are deciding how their children's time will be spent while school is out. Unfortunately, not all families in America can afford en-

riching experiences like summer camps and summer tutors.

That gap between families who have resources and those that do not is expressed clearly in their children. Evidence shows that students who lack access to summer learning, informal or structured, start the school year behind. When many kids are having to review last year's lessons, then all the kids have to spend that time reviewing last year's lessons. This puts all our kids behind.

Simply put, the long summer break should not be a long break from learning.

With Oregon's 4-year high school graduation rate at an alarmingly low 74 percent, it is long past time we shine a spotlight on summer learning loss and its impact on our students' path toward graduation. Summer learning loss has consequences that can damage a child's long-term academic and career success. That is especially important in my State where one in four teenagers doesn't make it to graduation on time.

Research by the National Summer Learning Association shows that most students lose math and reading skills during summer break. And unfortunately, students from low-income families fare even worse. The sad truth is that most students lose about 2 months of grade level equivalency in math computation skills over the summer months, and low-income students lose an additional 2 months in reading achievement.

As parents, community leaders, educators and policymakers, we must provide every resource possible to bridge that gap for disadvantaged and low income students. I have long fought to close the achievement gap and support all students on a path toward high school graduation and beyond.

I know so many great education advocates in Oregon who share these goals, and I want to commend Oregon's tremendous educators who work on this effort every single day. My good friends at Oregon Afterschool for Kids have made a strong commitment to keep kids learning all summer long. Their efforts to open up school libraries and school cafeterias in Woodburn, Salem, Eugene, and around the State have truly made a difference in children's lives by providing them with a safe and welcoming learning environment during the summer. I have often seen parents bring their children for a free lunch and stay for the free books.

This year, I hope to see even more communities come out and support our students by hosting summer learning activities. Even if you cannot attend events to serve lunch and read stories to classrooms full of children, remember that supporting summer learning is easy. Volunteering your time or donating books or crayons to neighbors is another way to support young learners. More ideas can be found in the "Summer Learning Tip Sheet for Parents" provided by the National Summer Learning Association.

As I have traveled around my State having conversations in high school auditoriums and school gyms, I have heard so many good ideas on how to help students succeed in school. Oregonians agree that we must support all aspects of a student's life to improve their outcomes, and I will add that this rings true all year long. I have seen firsthand that our communities are ready to come together and support students who need it. This is truly the Oregon way.

I am committed to helping more of our students get their high school diplomas and increase the rate at which our students are graduating from high school. Fighting summer learning loss is one way we can keep all students on a path toward a bright future.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLLYWOOD THEATRE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this year marks the 90th anniversary of the Hollywood Theatre in Portland, OR. Now a nonprofit organization, the Hollywood Theatre is an important Oregon landmark with a rich cultural history. Today I want to honor the Hollywood Theatre's 90 years of educating, entertaining, and bringing the community together through film.

The Hollywood Theatre was built in 1926, at the very end of the silent movie era. It was designed in an opulent Spanish Colonial Revival style, featuring extravagant interiors and a recognizable terra cotta exterior. Ninety years ago, it opened its doors to thousands of Oregonians who flocked to the luxurious theater to see its first show, "More Pay-Less Work," for a quarter. It thrived during cinema's transition to "talkies," hosting not only films but also community events such as bond drives during WWII and annual Rose Festival ceremonies. It was such a popular destination that the Northeast Portland neighborhood surrounding it became known as the Hollywood District.

In the 1960s, the popularity of television caused the Hollywood Theatre to fall on hard times. Although it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, it slipped into a period of disrepair and nearly burned down. Fortunately, it was purchased by Film Action Oregon, a local nonprofit, in 1997. Its new management returned the theatre to its historic appearance and renewed its status as a Portland jewel and community hub. The Hollywood Theatre now plays independent films and hosts film festivals, comedy shows, lectures, and continues the tradition of hosting community events. It is recognized by the national film community for its exceptional selection of films and support for local filmmakers through funding and consultation. Later this summer, travelers will be able to witness the theatre's newest project, a small theatre in the PDX airport, which will showcase short films by local artists. What better way to

wait for a flight than to grab a local microbrew and enjoy a local short film? No other airport in the Nation can boast such a treat.

The Hollywood Theatre is a testament to the Oregonian values: supporting small businesses, building and engaging local communities, making art accessible, and respecting and reviving historic landmarks. It exposes patrons to a wider variety of films than those offered by larger cinemas, often offering thought-provoking alternatives to blockbusters. In an age of multiplex theaters and in-home streaming services, it has taken a lot of passion for the Hollywood Theatre to pursue its mission and a lot of local support to keep it viable and flourishing. I would like to congratulate everyone who has been a part of its success. Hollywood Theatre. Thank you for inspiring countless people through film and community.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE'S ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in northern Maine. This 92-mile stretch of lake, shore, and river is a shining example of the dedication of the people of Maine to protect and preserve the natural beauty and heritage that define our great State.

For thousands of years, the Allagash was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Wabanaki, and the river's northerly flow provided an important transportation link between the Maine coast and the Saint John River. The Waterway's Native American heritage is found in such appellations as Umsaskis Lake and Musquacook Stream. In 1857, Henry David Thoreau explored the upper reaches of the Allagash during his third trip to the Maine woods and learned from his Penobscot guide that the river's name referred to the useful bark that could be harvested from the vast forests along its banks.

In the years that followed, the Allagash became a vital part of Maine's timber industry. While hiking through the region's remote wilderness, it is possible to come upon abandoned steam locomotives deep among the trees, remnants of the vast lumbering operations of the early 20th century. As the Allagash, rich with fish and game, became a favorite destination of outdoor enthusiasts from around the world, the surrounding woodlands have remained very much a part of Maine's working forest economy.

In 1966, the people of Maine recognized the special qualities of the Allagash and voted to protect it by approving a \$1.5 million bond to "develop the maximum wilderness character" of the river, and the Maine Legislature established the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Two years later, Maine Senator Edmund Muskie authored an amendment to the National Wild and

Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 that combined permanent Federal protection with permanent State administration. In 1970, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was granted Federal designation as a wild river and became the first State-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway captures the essence of the great north woods. This 50th anniversary is the time to celebrate the commitment to safeguard for generations to come this special place that captures the essence of the people of Maine.

RECOGNIZING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to call attention to a group of health care providers who play an important role in the patient care continuum—athletic trainers. These dedicated professionals who work in Iowa and across the United States provide valuable services to patients and make a real difference in the lives of those they treat.

Athletic trainers play a key role in their local communities. Many of them work in educational settings including colleges, universities, elementary schools, and secondary schools to keep student athletes safe. Others work in rehabilitation clinics, hospitals, fitness and community centers, or even for professional sports teams to prevent injury and help injured patients recover.

Because of the key preventative and rehabilitative services provided by athletic trainers, many patients are able to avoid unnecessary disruption of normal daily life. This enables folks to stay mobile and to contribute to their communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing athletic training as an important profession in our Nation's health care system and in expressing gratitude for the important impact these individuals have on promoting the overall health and well-being of the public.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WALLNER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am pleased to compliment the extraordinary work of James Wallner for the U.S. Senate. James is one of the most intelligent, diligent, and principled Senate staffers I have ever known. He started in my office as a legislative assistant, then was promoted to be my legislative director. He impressed us all with his ability to master complex legislation, to get to the core of an issue, and to intelligently discuss it with regular Alabamians and national experts. He then became the staff director of the Steering Committee, where he also performed superbly. I was able to work closely with him during this time, also. In these roles, he has combined an acute intellectual interest in the Senate rules, along with a

strong interest in public policy and practical politics. James knows how rare is the beauty of the American Republic. He is a student of history and has worked relentlessly to preserve and enrich our heritage of law and policy.

He has a brilliant mind and is always thinking. A real conservative in the classical sense, James has constantly worked to undergird our spasmodic political system with the timeless principles that have made her great.

I am a great admirer. James represents the best in public service. He has rock-solid values, and he is unafraid to fight for them. The Senate's great loss will be the great gain of our most valuable Heritage Foundation. There, one can be sure he will continue to be a champion for America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR OIL CORPORATION

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Sinclair Oil on its 100th anniversary of operations. Based in Wyoming, Sinclair Oil is one of the largest privately held, vertically integrated oil companies in America.

Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation was founded in 1916 by Harry Ford Sinclair. Under his leadership, Sinclair opened America's first modern service stations in the 1920s. These stations offered gasoline, oil changes, car repairs, and, for the first time, public restrooms. With the establishment of this network of full service gasoline stations, Americans were finally able to experience what drivers have for nearly a century referred to as "the long road trip."

In the 1930s, the world suffered through the Great Depression. Sinclair Oil continued to operate during those tough times, expanding its national operations by acquiring dying competitors, and, more importantly, protecting hundreds of jobs at a time when employment was scarce. By 1935, the company had 20,000 employees, 8,100 company-owned or leased service stations, and 14,000 miles of pipelines.

It was also during this time that Sinclair introduced Dino the Dinosaur as the company's mascot and logo. Dino remains the face of Sinclair Oil and is one of America's best known oil industry mascots.

Following the retirement of Mr. Sinclair in 1948, the company continued to operate under various ownership groups until 1976, when Earl Holding purchased the company's assets. Earl Holding, like Harry Ford Sinclair, was a self-made man. As was the case of many in his generation, Mr. Holding grew up with nothing during the Great Depression. He learned early on that hard work and dedication to one's goals was the path to success.

Earl Holding's long business career began in 1952 when he and his wife,

Carol, invested in a motel and service station called Little America. Located in a remote area along what is now I-80 in Wyoming, the Holdings took 2 years to turn their single operation to profitability. They fell in love with Wyoming and the people they met, and it is where they raised their three children, Anne, Kathleen, and Stephen. With their business successful, they began building the Little America chain of hotels and gas stations that exist throughout the West today. Just prior to the Holding's purchase of Sinclair Oil in 1976, Little America became Sinclair Oil's biggest customer.

Today Sinclair Oil remains a vital player in providing American drivers with quality gasoline. Incorporated in Wyoming, the company owns refineries in Casper and Sinclair, WY. There are more than 1,300 Sinclair-branded stations located in 24 States. The company markets high-quality products, including DINO CARE™ TOP TIER™ Gasoline through a network of 400 distributors. Sinclair also operates a network of pipelines and terminals in the Rocky Mountain and midcontinent regions, and the company continues to invest in its workers and operations to insure reliable and affordable products for generations to come.

When Earl Holding passed away in 2013, Wyoming lost a remarkable individual. His love of family and community, and his commitment to hard work and pursuing one's dreams, led him to a life of tremendous success and fulfillment.

We are fortunate that his legacy continues through the Holding family businesses, particularly Sinclair Oil. Headed by current CEO and chairman of the board, Ross Matthews, the Holding family remains intimately involved in the company's activities, and the values Earl and Carol Holding lived their working lives by are still reflected in Sinclair Oil's company vision: Love of Country, Care for People, Commitment to Safety.

I invite all members of the Senate to join me in celebrating the 100-year anniversary of a truly American company, Sinclair Oil, and wishing the company, its employees, and the Holding family much success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO VAL KUNTZ

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, in the Capitol in Washington, DC, there is a corridor that highlights the discovery and expansion of America. Just above one of the doors, there is a quote that reminds me of the people who have helped shape Montana, and that makes me proud to be a Westerner. The quote from Horace Greenley reads, "Go West, young men, go West and grow up with the country."

Today I honor a man who has grown up in the city of Belgrade, MT. Valentine Kuntz was born and raised on the family farm after his parents immigrated to America from Russia. Folks know him as Val, but many may not

know the role he has played in serving and building Belgrade.

Val has served his country honorably throughout his life. As a young man he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in the Pacific theater during World War II. On September 2, 1945, Val was a part of the 200 ships sitting in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese surrendered and ended the war.

After the war, Val served as a sawmill operator and business owner in Belgrade. The city of Belgrade owes thanks to Val for his part in constructing the Catholic church and the goalposts for the Belgrade High School football field. Val was also the entrepreneur behind the first fourplex housing unit in Belgrade.

Together, Val and his wife, Betsy, have raised nine children, four of whom inherited the talent and building trades from their father. Today their children continue his legacy by working on construction projects all over the world. However, out of all of his achievements, his children are his pride and joy.

On July 23, 2016, Val will celebrate his 90th birthday, surrounded by family and friends. Thank you for the long hours and hard work that helped build Belgrade, MT. I am so grateful for all that you have done and all that your children continue to do, and I wish you a very happy birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AND CINDY REID

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, "If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction." These are inspiring words and a mantra for the Miles City nonprofit Wake Up & Lace Up. But for Kelly and Cindy Reid, this quote is a lifestyle, and for the last 34 years this couple has selflessly volunteered their time to setting the community of Miles City in the right direction. Together they have brought economic growth and national recognition to this town of nearly 9,000 people. They are an active couple and have used sports and athletic events to bring people from their community, Montana, and neighboring States together.

Cindy uses running and athletics as a powerful motivator. As a survivor of acute myelogenous leukemia, she used exercise as a way to work through her illness. From this experience she co-founded Wake Up & Lace Up, which provides direct funding to eastern Montana family to help cover the costs of cancer treatment. These costs include travel expenses and even wigs to chemotherapy patients. For one family, they even provided a stroller to accommodate a family of triplets. When dealt a hard hand, she turned her hardship into an opportunity to extend kindness and has inspired many others to her cause. Altogether the organization has provided nearly \$103,000 to 157 patients and their families in Miles City, Forsyth, Colstrip, Hysham, Jordan,

Broadus, Baker, Sidney, Plentywood, Fairview, and Circle.

Along with her nonprofit, Cindy inspires young girls through multiple athletic programs in her area. Cindy has coached fifth and sixth grade girls traveling basketball teams, girls' softball, and track and field at Washington Middle School and Custer County District High School. Over the years, she has organized multiple athletic events such as Range Runners, Row Run & Ride, and the Badlands Bowl Fun Run.

When she isn't running, coaching, or raising money, you can find Cindy playing piano at the Sacred Heart Parish.

Her husband and teammate is Miles City native, Kelly Reid. Over the years Kelly has brought economic growth to Miles City through a variety of businesses and events. After serving 2 years in the Army and working as an air traffic controller in Salt Lake, UT, Kelly moved back to his hometown and has been promoting others to be a part of Miles City ever since.

Kelly has coordinated numerous events, including boxing matches with Olympic boxer Todd Foster, concerts with Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard, the 1995 Cattle Drive, and most recognizably the Montana North Dakota All Star Football game.

Every year, this game recruits 34 of the best senior players from each State and brings them together in June to raise money for the Knights of Columbus. Over 1,500 players have participated since the inaugural game and brings together over 2,500 friends, families, and fans. The game showcases Montana talent and instills camaraderie and healthy competition into these young men. USA Today even recognized the event as the "No. 1 Montana Community Event" in 1998.

They have played an irreplaceable role in the lives of so many. Their good deeds and hard work has affected citizens all over Custer County, MT, and North Dakota and improves the lives of Miles City citizens every day. Thank you for the tireless and selfless dedication you have for your community.●

CONGRATULATING ATHENA TUREK-HANKINS AND DANIEL SAFTNER

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize two of Nevada's brightest students, Athena Turek-Hankins and Daniel Saftner, on being selected as 2016 recipients of the Fulbright scholarship.

The Fulbright Scholar Program was developed shortly after World War II by former U.S. Senator James William Fulbright to promote the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science. Today the program offers 1,900 grants each year for students to study in various fields in more than 140 countries worldwide. As a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship, thousands of students and young professionals apply from across

the country. I am proud to congratulate these two students on their achievement. These students are shining examples of how hard work leads to success, and they stand as role models for future members of the Nevada Wolf Pack.

Ms. Turek-Hankins recently graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, as an honors student and received her bachelor's degree in international affairs with a special emphasis in Middle Eastern affairs. She also earned a bachelor's degree in French and a minor in philosophy of ethics, law, and politics. Ms. Turek-Hankins will be teaching English in Luxembourg this coming fall through the Fulbright scholarship and will have the opportunity to expand her knowledge on European economics.

Mr. Saftner received his bachelor's degree from UNR in geology in 2011. His studies focused more specifically on climate change. He is currently pursuing his master's degree from the university in hydrogeology from the Graduate Program of Hydrologic Sciences. In addition, he spent 2 years in Cameroon, Africa, as a volunteer in the Peace Corps. His Fulbright scholarship will allow him the opportunity to return to Africa in Niger, West Africa. While there, Mr. Saftner will research the variations of groundwater quality in the rural areas of Southwest Niger and participate in a global effort to increase access to safe drinking water in developing countries.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional young Nevadans. I am proud to have them representing both Nevada and UNR as global ambassadors through the Fulbright scholarship. These students worked hard for this incredible opportunity, and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING VANDERBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate John C. Vanderburg Elementary School on its team of fifth grade students and facilitator selected as a national winner in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, SSEP. This team of students should be proud of its achievement as 1 of 11 national winners selected for the opportunity to have their experiment conducted on the International Space Station.

Facilitator William Gilluly and student investigators Shani Abeyakoon, Kendall Allgower, and Avery Sanford created a winning proposal titled, "Soybean Germination in Microgravity." The experiment seeks to gain further clarity on whether soybeans can be used as a vitamin and nutrient-dense food source for astronauts during long-term space travel. The experiment is expected to be conducted on the space flight scheduled to take place in early 2017. During this time, astronauts will activate the experiment as the stu-

dents conduct the same experiment on land, ultimately comparing the results to evaluate the effects of microgravity on the germination of seeds.

SSEP is a national science, technology, engineering, and math educational program with the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, which works to inspire future generations of scientists and engineers. I extend my sincerest congratulations to these Nevada students selected as winners of the SSEP competition. They stand as role models to future Vanderburg Elementary students of what hard work and determination can accomplish.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and Vanderburg Elementary School for their advancement in a national competition. These students should be proud to call themselves top contenders in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Vanderburg Elementary School for its success and honorable representation of Nevada.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY HARRY

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I congratulate Ray Harry on his recent retirement after 40 years at Southern Company.

Ray started with Southern Company back in 1976 as an environmental licensing specialist at Gulf Power in his home State of Florida. Since then, he has held numerous senior positions dealing with environmental policy both at Gulf Power and at Southern Company itself. Most recently, he served as senior director of governmental affairs in the company's Washington, DC, office, responsible for the direction and management of all Federal environmental issues. He represented Southern with great distinction before Federal policymakers in both Congress and the executive branch, with international policymaking bodies such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and as part of various coalitions and trade associations in Washington, DC.

During his many years of service, I had the privilege of getting to know Ray and of working with him on a number of important environmental issues facing our country. He was always honest, straightforward, and eager to share his deep experience and policy expertise. More than that, his soft-spoken manner and quick, wry sense of humor made him a pleasure to be around. I congratulate Ray on his retirement and wish him and his wife, Sheila, all the best in their coming adventures.●

RECOGNIZING MORRIS & DICKSON CO., LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, oftentimes the truest test of a small business's strength is its longevity. In

Louisiana, our small businesses have worked through countless challenges and survived for generations to improve the lives of their neighbors and make substantial contributions to the economy. In honor of their 175th anniversary, I would like to present Morris & Dickson Co., LLC of Shreveport, LA, with the Senate Small Business Legacy Award for the important achievements of this Louisiana-based small business success story.

In 1841, John Worthington Morris opened J. W. Morris & Co., an independent pharmacy in downtown Shreveport, LA. Working out of a single riverfront warehouse, J.W. first received goods by steamboat from New Orleans and with the help of his brother, Thomas Henry, ran his namesake small business until his death 12 years later. A second generation of the Morris family continued J.W.'s legacy until Claudius Dickson bought the business in 1899, renaming it to be Morris & Dickson Co. Claudius worked with members of the Morris family to grow their wholesale pharmaceutical business. As technology improved, with new railway lines and gasoline-powered trucks, Morris & Dickson Co. embraced the revolutionary improvements to distribute their pharmaceuticals in Louisiana and the surrounding States.

In order to survive the Civil War, the Great Depression, as well as the day-to-day struggles of running a successful business, the leaders of Morris & Dickson Co. took advantage of each technological improvement to ensure the company would stay afloat.

It wasn't until the 1980s that Morris & Dickson Co. grew exponentially and became a nationally recognized competitor. At the time, Morris & Dickson Co. was working out of the same building it had first moved into in 1905. Nearly eight decades later, they were still transporting goods in a manual freight elevator and used a dumbwaiter or rope bucket to send orders upstairs. Claudius's son Markham Allen Dickson recognized that major changes had to be made and, much like his predecessors, had an immense respect for technology's growing influence. M. Allen's foresight and ingenuity allowed the family-owned business to grow to become the region's leading wholesale drug distributor. He moved the company out of downtown Shreveport, utilized the early use of computers, and under his leadership, Morris & Dickson Co. exploded on the national wholesale pharmaceutical scene. By 2013, Morris & Dickson Co. was the fourth largest pharmaceutical distributor in the nation.

Still driven by the 175-year old ambition to elevate the standard of patient care for their neighbors and community, today Morris & Dickson Co. is run by M. Allen's son, Paul Dickson. Morris & Dickson Co. has a well-earned reputation for persevering through many hardships by embracing innovation in order to harness the power of an ever-changing economy and increasingly technology driven world.

Today Morris & Dickson Co. provides operational and logistic innovation support for independent pharmacies. This includes everything from on-time delivery of pharmaceutical inventory to inventory management software. With Morris & Dickson Co.'s help, independent pharmacies in 14 States can focus on supporting and improving the health of their local communities, while also remaining financially solvent.

This Shreveport-based family-run business is a great example of the American Dream in action, and companies like Morris & Dickson certainly serve as role models for the next generation of entrepreneurs. I congratulate the hard-working folks at Morris & Dickson Co., LLC, on 175 years in business and for the well-deserved honor of the Senate Small Business Legacy Award.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 304. An act to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5119. An act to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds available to any Federal department or agency for any fiscal year to purchase or issue a license for the purchase of heavy water produced in Iran.

H.R. 5722. An act to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2840. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

H.R. 636. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the

airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4875. An act to establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:36 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 524. An act to authorize the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use crisis, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5588. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 4:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3055. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

S. 3207. An act to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4992. An act to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5631. An act to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 764) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 805. An act to provide for certain requirements relating to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority stewardship transition; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1560. An act to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1567. An act to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote inclusive, sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1732. An act to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1734. An act to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2646. An act to make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3460. An act to suspend until January 21, 2017, the authority of the President to waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3495. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4084. An act to enable civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by private and public institutions and to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of nuclear physics, chemistry, and materials science; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4444. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4470. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the requirements related to lead in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4992. An act to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5119. An act to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds available to any Federal department or agency for any fiscal year to purchase or issue a license for the purchase of heavy water produced in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5631. An act to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 10. An act to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. An act to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4487. An act to reduce costs of Federal real estate, improve building security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4901. An act to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 897. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2042. An act to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 14, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 524. An act to authorize the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 2840. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6155. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6156. A communication from the Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program

Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) breach for the Next Generation Operational Control System (OCX); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6157. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program 2015 annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6158. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2015 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6159. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6160. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure" (RIN3064-AE43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6161. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Record Retention Requirements" (RIN3064-AE25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6162. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Financial Assets Transferred in Connection With a Securitization or Participation" (RIN3064-AE38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6163. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf" ((RIN1082-AA00) (Docket ID BSEE-2013-0011)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6164. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard - Round 2" (FRL No. 9948-87-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6165. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-037); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6166. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-028); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6167. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-017); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6168. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-077); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6169. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0084—2016-0086); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6170. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale and Issue of Marketable Book-Entry Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds" (31 CFR Part 356) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6171. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Setting Forth Rules for the DL Program and 6-year Remedial Amendment Cycle System" (Rev. Proc. 2016-37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6172. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-89; Introduction" (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6173. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Business Subcontracting Improvements" (RIN9000-AM91) (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6174. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments" (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6175. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-89; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6176. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Revision to Standard Forms for Bonds" (RIN9000-AN11) (FAC 2005-89) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6177. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FPI Blanket Waiver Threshold" ((RIN9000-AN22) (FAC 2005-89)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6178. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; OMB Circular Citation Update" ((RIN9000-AN17) (FAC 2005-89)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6179. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's amended fiscal year 2015 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6180. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-429, "Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6181. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-430, "New Bethany Baptist Church Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6182. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-431, "Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6183. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-432, "Sale to Minors Penalty Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6184. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-443, "Fiscal Year 2016 Second Revised Budget Request Temporary Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6185. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-444, "Sale of Synthetic Drugs Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6186. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-445, "Mandatory Driver Instruction Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6187. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-446, "Fieldstone Lane Des-

ignation Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6188. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-447, "Carry's Way and Guethler's Court Designation Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6189. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities and Dine College" (RIN1076-AF08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-6190. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Solicit Gifts and Donations" (RIN2900-AP75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6191. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 4 - Disruptions to Communications" ((FCC 16-63) (PS Docket Nos. 15-80, 11-82, and ET Docket No. 04-35)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6192. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport (STS); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6193. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Cordele, Georgia)" ((MB Docket No. 16-123) (DA 16-711)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6194. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Tolleson, Arizona)" ((MB Docket No. 16-93) (DA 16-713)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6195. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at San Francisco International Airport (SFO); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-197. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire urging the United States Congress, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states for the sole and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide for a balanced budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40

Whereas, with each passing year this nation becomes deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues so that the public debt now exceeds \$12 trillion; and

Whereas, attempts to limit spending, including the impoundment of funds by the President of the United States, have resulted in strenuous assertions that the responsibility for appropriations is the constitutional duty of the Congress; and

Whereas, the annual federal budget repeatedly demonstrates the unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to curtail spending to conform to available revenues; and

Whereas, the unified budget does not reflect actual spending because of the exclusion of special outlays which are not in the budget; and

Whereas, knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that the budget reflect all federal spending and that the budget be in balance; and

Whereas, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is one of the greatest economic threats which faces our nation, we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal discipline needed to reverse this trend; and

Whereas, the mounting debt level is putting our country not only at economic security risk, but it is opening our country up to a national security risk as our debt level restricts our capacity to act and shows weakness to our enemies; and

Whereas, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, amendments to the United States Constitution may be proposed by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both Houses deem it necessary, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states the Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the New Hampshire general court hereby petitions the Congress of the United States of America to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal year the president of the United States submit and the Congress of the United States adopt a balanced federal budget; or

That pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the New Hampshire general court makes application to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for

each fiscal year the president of the United States submit and the Congress of the United States adopt a balanced federal budget; and

That if Congress adopts, within 90 days after the legislatures of two-thirds of the states have made application for such convention, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that contained in this resolution, then this application for a convention shall no longer be of any force or effect; and

That this application and request be deemed null and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event that such convention not be limited to the aforementioned specific and exclusive purpose of a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment; and

That this application shall be deemed null and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event the United States Supreme Court rules that a convention cannot be limited to the subject stated in 34 such applications; and

That this application by the New Hampshire general court constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the several states have made application for a similar convention pursuant to Article V or Congress has proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that contained in this concurrent resolution; and

That certified copies of this concurrent resolution be transmitted by the house clerk to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the New Hampshire delegation to the Congress, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1475. A bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 3004. A bill to amend the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 485. A resolution to encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to abide by constitutional provisions regarding the holding of presidential elections in 2016, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and orderly democratic transition of power.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 515. A resolution welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore's strategic partnership with the United States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counterterrorism cooperation.

S. Res. 524. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 3028. A bill to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. Con. Res. 41. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 42. A concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress regarding the safe and expeditious resettlement to Albania of all residents of Camp Liberty.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 46. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Anne Hall, of Maine, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lithuania.

Nominee: Anne Hall.

Post: COM Lithuania.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: n/a.
3. Children and Spouses: n/a.
4. Parents: Rose Anne Hall: none, Bradford Allyn Hall: none.
5. Grandparents: Mona J. Greenlaw (deceased), Lloyd S. Greenlaw (deceased), Milton Bradford Hall (deceased), Minna S. Hall (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: n/a.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Susan Hall and Scott Rodgers: none.

*Lawrence Robert Silverman, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Nominee: Lawrence Robert Silverman.

Post: Kuwait.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: 0.
2. Spouse: 0.
3. Children and Spouses: 0.
4. Parents: 0.
5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.
7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

*Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of

Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

Nominee: Carol Zelis Perez.

Post: Chile.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Abelardo I. Perez: (see continuation sheet).
3. Children and Spouses: Michael Perez: none; Caroline Berry: none; Jacob Berry: none; Marisa Perez: none.
4. Parents: John Zelis: none; Irene Zelis: none;
5. Grandparents: Frances Grabowski—deceased; Joseph Grabowski—deceased; John Zelis—deceased; Helen Zelis—deceased.

*Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Nominee: Geoffrey R. Pyatt.

Post: Athens.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Mary D. Pyatt, William R. Pyatt, Claire M. Pyatt: none.
4. Parents: Kedar D. Pyatt, Jr., Mary M. Pyatt: none.
5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: David B. Pyatt/Jamie Pyatt: none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Kira & Eric Lynch, Rebecca & Darren Quinn: none.

*Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

Nominee: Douglas Alan Silliman.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Catherine R. Silliman: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Benjamin D. Silliman: none; Zachary J. Silliman: none.
4. Parents: Robert H. Silliman: none; Elsie P. Skidmore Silliman: (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Chauncey H. Silliman (deceased); Mildred Silliman (deceased); Roy H. Skidmore (deceased); Pearl H. B. Skidmore (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: Gregory S. Silliman: none; Mary Adelsberger: none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: none.

*Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine.

Nominee: Marie Louise Yovanovitch.

Post: Kyiv.

Nominated: 5/19/16.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
 2. Spouse: N/A.
 3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
 4. Parents: Nadia Yovanovitch, \$1.00, 5/3/16, Woman Card/Hillary for America; Michel Yovanovitch, Deceased.
 5. Grandparents: Michael & Louise Theokritoff, Deceased; Ivan & Maria Yovanovitch, Deceased.
 6. Brothers and Spouses: Andre Yovanovitch.
- Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

*Peter Michael McKinley, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Nominee: Peter Michael McKinley.

Post: Embassy Kabul (current).

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
 2. Spouse: Fatima McKinley: none.
 3. Children and Spouses: Peter McKinley: None; Claire McKinley: none; Sarah McKinley: none.
 4. Parents: Peter McKinley (father): My father, who is 89 this year, remembers giving about \$20 a year to the Republican National Committee and \$20 a year to the Connecticut Republicans. He remembers doing so each of the past four years (back to 2010). He does not keep past records. He did give \$15 to the National Republican Congressional Committee on March 28, 2014; Enriqueta McKinley (mother): Deceased, 2001.
- Grandparents: Lindsay and Marjorie McKinley: Deceased before 1990; Francisco and Vicenta Liano: Deceased before 1960.
- Brothers and Spouses: Brian McKinley: none; Rocio McKinley (spouse): none.
- Sisters and Spouses: Margaret McKinley: \$25, 2011, Democratic CCC. \$45, 2013, Democratic CCC; Hyde Clark (spouse): none.

*Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Donald C. Coggins, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3210. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to assess United States assistance to designated countries in order to advance anti-corruption efforts in those countries and better serve United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3211. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3212. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3213. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3214. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3215. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to specify which depository institutions are subject to the maintenance of records and disclosure requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3216. A bill to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3217. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3218. A bill to remove the limitation on certain amounts for which large non-rural hospitals may be reimbursed under the Healthcare Connect Fund of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3219. A bill to provide standards for physical condition and management of housing receiving assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of

1937; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3220. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to establish that certain conduct, in or around a dwelling, shall be considered to be severe or pervasive for purposes of determining whether a certain type of sexual harassment has occurred under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3221. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3222. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3223. A bill to increase funding to reduce opioid use disorders and overdose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3224. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add certain synthetic substances to schedule I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3225. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require the Attorney General to make procurement quotas for opioid analgesics publicly available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3226. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who participated in a radiation cleanup mission in the Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands during the period beginning on January 1, 1977, and ending on December 31, 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 3227. A bill to direct the President to establish an interagency mechanism to coordinate United States development programs and private sector investment activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 3228. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct a study of coastal areas in the South Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers to identify risks and vulnerabilities of those areas as a result of seas level rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3229. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust limitations on certain Farm Service Agency guaranteed and direct loans; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 3230. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative,

carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3231. A bill to establish a policy framework that offers and rewards work, strengthens the incentive to work, greatly reduces poverty, and creates new jobs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3232. A bill to revise repayment terms for certain loans made under the Lowell National Historical Park Historic Preservation Loan Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3233. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 3234. A bill to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, the Indian Trader Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3235. A bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the troops who defended Bataan during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3236. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to educate individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and to provide for additional assistance for complaints and requests of Medicare beneficiaries that relate to their enrollment in the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3238. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that electrochromic glass qualifies as energy property for purposes of the energy credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3239. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a program to provide additional incentives for the development of new drugs to treat pediatric cancers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 3240. A bill to prohibit the use of premiums paid to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation as an offset for other Federal spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3241. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United

States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 3242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the opportunity for responsible health savings to all American families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 3243. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to help rebuild and renew rural communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3244. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to clarify the treatment of pediatric dental coverage in the individual and group markets outside of Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3245. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 3246. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3247. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude corporations operating prisons from the definition of taxable REIT subsidiary; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3248. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make qualified biogas property and qualified manure resource recovery property eligible for the energy credit and to permit new clean renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3249. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities relating to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 3250. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Congressional elections, to promote the disclosure of disbursements made in coordination with campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LANFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3251. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption to the individual mandate to maintain health coverage for certain individuals whose premium has increased by more than 10 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3252. A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 3253. A bill to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to provide notice and comment rulemaking for the revised enforcement policy relating to the exemption of retail facilities from coverage of the process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals standard under section 1910.119(a)(2)(i) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3254. A bill to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System land in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 3255. A bill to gather information about the illicit production of illicit fentanyl in foreign countries and to withhold bilateral assistance from countries that do not have emergency scheduling procedures for new illicit drugs, cannot prosecute criminals for the manufacture or distribution of controlled substance analogues, or do not require the registration of tabletting machines and encapsulating machines; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3256. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently modify the limitations on the deduction of interest by financial institutions which hold tax-exempt bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3258. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to delay the inclusion in consumer credit reports and to establish requirements for debt collectors with respect to medical debt information of veterans due to inappropriate or delayed billing payments or reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3259. A bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3260. A bill to provide liability protection for volunteer pilots who fly for the public benefit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3261. A bill to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 3262. A bill to treat all controlled substance analogues, other than chemical sub-

stances subject to the Toxic Substances Control Act, as controlled substances in schedule I regardless of whether they are intended for human consumption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3263. A bill to promote innovation and realize the efficiency gains and economic benefits of on-demand computing by accelerating the acquisition and deployment of innovative technology and computing resources throughout the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3264. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production of electricity from renewable resources to allow a credit for certain open-loop biomass and trash facilities placed in service before the date of the enactment of this Act and to modify the definition of municipal solid waste; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3265. A bill to improve rail passenger safety by prohibiting individuals convicted of driving under the influence from holding a license or certification authorizing them to operate a commuter train; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3266. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from taxable income any student loan forgiveness or discharge; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3267. A bill to protect against threats posed by Iran to the United States and allies of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 3268. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require all United States entities to have an employer identification number issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TILIS):

S. 3269. A bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 3270. A bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3271. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 regarding dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3272. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services in the

Sinai Peninsula of Egypt shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3273. A bill to make technical corrections to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3274. A bill to counter foreign disinformation and propaganda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 3275. A bill to increase the maximum guaranteed benefits with respect to certain participants of a pilots' pension plan; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3276. A bill to make habitual drunk drivers inadmissible and removable and to require the detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and has been charged with driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3277. A bill to provide penalties for countries that systematically and unreasonably refuse or delay repatriation of certain nationals and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3278. A bill to establish an improved regulatory process to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of injurious wildlife; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. KING, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3279. A bill to realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government in keeping with the core belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society to bolster United States diplomacy targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to ensure that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 3280. A bill to provide for a Public Health Emergency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3281. A bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3282. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act,

and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3283. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic"; considered and passed.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule relating to the extent to which an employer may offer an inducement to an employee for the employee's spouse to provide information about the spouse's manifestation of disease or disorder in connection with an employer-sponsored wellness program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule relating to the extent to which employers may use incentives to encourage employees to participate in wellness programs that ask the employees to respond to disability-related inquiries or undergo medical examinations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 535. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 536. A resolution proclaiming the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as "National Obesity Care Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 537. A resolution expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 538. A resolution designating September 2016 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. Res. 539. A resolution condemning the horrific acts of violence and hatred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by the tragedy; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 540. A resolution commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service for their work in fighting Ebola; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 541. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park in the State of Hawaii, and designating August 1, 2016, as "Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 542. A resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary and the importance of the Lanham Act by designating July 2016 as "National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 543. A resolution commemorating the past success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2016 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 544. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding compliance enforcement of Russian violations of the Open Skies Treaty; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. Res. 545. A resolution supporting the designation of July 15, 2016, as "Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 546. A resolution honoring the centennial of the United States Grain Standards Act; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 547. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 548. A resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Viking Mission Landing on the surface of Mars; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Con. Res. 48. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation should domesticate and recognize judgments issued by United States courts on behalf of United States victims of terrorism, and that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs should cease its political interference with Italy's independent judiciary, which it carries out in the interests of state sponsors of terrorism such as the Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Con. Res. 49. A concurrent resolution supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for 12-month continuous enrollment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 493

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 591

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 591, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal

cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 681

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 706

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 773

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas.

S. 1088

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1088, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 1139

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, *supra*.

S. 1176

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1176, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

S. 1476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1476, a bill to require States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding shooting incidents involving law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1538, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1664

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1709

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to reduce risks to the financial system by limiting banks' ability to engage in certain risky activities and limiting conflicts of interest, to reinstate certain Glass-Steagall Act protections that were repealed by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1737

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1926

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1926, a bill to ensure access to screening mammography services.

S. 1968

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1968, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain companies to disclose information describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to provide for phased-in payment of Social Security Disability Insurance payments during the waiting period for individuals with a terminal illness.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2072

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2072, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program under which the Administrator shall defer the designation of an area as a non-attainment area for purposes of the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard if the area achieves and maintains certain standards under a voluntary early action compact plan.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 2219

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment, to require States to conduct such redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes.

S. 2531

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2531, a bill to authorize State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 2619

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a pilot program on the award of financial assistance to local governments to support the development of startup businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2655

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2655, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2745

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2745, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote the inclusion of minorities in clinical research, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, *supra*.

S. 2758

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove consideration of certain pain-related issues from calculations under the Medicare hospital value-based purchasing program, and for other purposes.

S. 2759

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 2795

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 2799

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2799, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary patient registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 2854

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2854, a bill to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

S. 2868

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2868, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the

deferral of inclusion in gross income for capital gains reinvested in economically distressed zones.

S. 2878

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2878, a bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2904, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2912, a bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2927

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2927, a bill to prevent governmental discrimination against providers of health services who decline involvement in abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the provision of emergency medical services.

S. 2993

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2993, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change the spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule with respect to certain farms.

S. 3008

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3008, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain discharges of student loan indebtedness.

S. 3032

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3032, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2016, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3056, a bill to provide for certain causes of action relating to delays of generic drugs and biosimilar biological products.

S. 3057

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3057, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from requiring that the identity of contributors to 501(c) organizations be included in annual returns.

S. 3083

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3083, a bill to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3101

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3101, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster.

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3101, *supra*.

S. 3106

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3106, a bill to provide a coordinated regional response to effectively manage the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

S. 3113

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3113, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

S. 3124

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3124, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 3127

At the request of Mr. DAINES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3127, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American cultural objects, and for other purposes.

S. 3132

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3132, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide service dogs to certain veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

S. 3134

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3134, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. 3137

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3137, a bill to require the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the efficacy of providing Alzheimer's Disease caregiver support services in delaying or reducing the use of institutionalized care for Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia.

S. 3138

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3138, a bill to prevent Iran from directly or indirectly receiving assistance from the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

S. 3142

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

S. 3146

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3146, a bill to require servicers to provide certain notices relating to foreclosure proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 3150

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3150, a bill to use certain revenues from the outer Continental Shelf to reduce the Federal budget deficit.

S. 3179

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3179, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.

S. 3184

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3184, a bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 3194

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3194, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children.

S.J. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 5, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating

to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution to provide limitations on the transfer of certain United States munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia.

S.J. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 35, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of Labor relating to "Interpretation of the 'Advice' Exemption in Section 203(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act".

S.J. RES. 36

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 36, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights.

S. CON. RES. 41

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 41, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

S. CON. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 42, a concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress regarding the safe and expeditious resettlement to Albania of all residents of Camp Liberty.

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 42, *supra*.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution expressing support for fostering closer economic and commercial ties between the United States and the United Kingdom following the decision of the people of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union.

S. RES. 349

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 349, a resolution congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

S. RES. 485

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 485, a resolution to encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to abide by constitutional provisions regarding the holding of presidential elections in 2016, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and orderly democratic transition of power.

S. RES. 524

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 524, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen.

S. RES. 526

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 526, a resolution calling for all parties to respect the arbitral tribunal ruling with regard to the South China Sea and to express United States policy on freedom of navigation and overflight in the East and South China Seas.

S. RES. 529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 529, a resolution calling upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Iranian-Americans Siamak Namazi and his father, Baquer Namazi.

S. RES. 530

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 530, a resolution supporting the termination of the Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives established pursuant to House Resolution 461, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3210. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to assess United States assistance to designated countries in order to advance anti-corruption efforts in those countries and better serve United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, there is growing recognition in the United States, and around the world, that corruption is a serious threat to international security and stability. We have all seen the headlines—from scandals in Brazil and Malaysia, to the doping by Russian athletes and their subsequent ban from the Summer Olympics, to the Panama Papers. It is becoming clear that where there are high levels of corruption we find fragile states, or states suffering from internal or external conflict—in places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sudan.

The problem of corruption, and the dysfunction that follows it, can be difficult to address because it is like a hydra, with many corrupt actors that can include government officials, businessmen, law enforcement, military personnel, and organized criminal groups. Corruption is a system that operates via extensive, entrenched networks in both the public and private sectors.

But we must address it. We can't throw up our hands and accept corruption as the status quo, because the costs of not addressing and rooting it out are too great. Corruption fuels violent extremism, pushing young people toward violence, because they lose faith in the institutions that are supposed to protect and serve them. Corruption feeds the destructive fire of criminal networks and transnational crime. Citizens lose faith in the social compact between governments and the people. Terrorist groups use corruption to recruit followers to their hateful cause. It's a vicious cycle.

The human cost of corruption is substantial. Across the globe, millions of men, women and children are victims of modern day slavery. Corruption enables their trafficking within and among countries. Corruption is a constant companion to modern day slavery and the suffering that it brings. We also have seen this play out in the refugee and migrant crisis, with thousands drowning in the Mediterranean, victims of trafficking networks and corrupt government officials who facilitate this illicit business. Make no mistake, corruption is big business—one news report estimates that traffickers made 5 to 6 billion dollars in 2015 alone in bringing approximately one million refugees and migrants to Europe.

Let's be clear-eyed—any fight against corruption will be long-term and difficult. It's a fight against powerful people, powerful companies, and powerful interests. It is about changing a mindset and a culture as much as it is about establishing and enforcing laws. As my colleagues and constituents know, my attention has long been focused on fighting corruption. I introduced S. 284, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, to target human rights abusers and corrupt individuals around the globe who threaten the rule of law and deny fun-

damental freedoms. But the problem is so big—we simply have to do more.

This is why I am introducing the Combating Global Corruption and Accountability Act. We must meet the scale of the problem of corruption with greater resolve and commitment. To do that, I believe we must focus on four things.

First, we must institutionalize the fight against corruption as a national security priority. In my bill, the State Department will produce an annual report, similar to the Trafficking in Persons Report, which takes a close look at each country's efforts to combat corruption. That model, which has effectively advanced the effort to combat modern day slavery, will similarly embed the issue of corruption in our collective work, so that we hold governments to account. This bill establishes minimum standards for combating corruption—standards that should be part and parcel of every government's commitment to its citizens. These include whether a country has laws that recognize corrupt acts for the crimes they are—violations of the people's trust—along with appropriate penalties for breaking that trust. Whether a country has an independent judiciary for deciding corruption cases, free from influence and abuse. Whether there is support for civil society organizations that are the watchdogs of integrity against would-be thieves of the state. This bill, hopefully, will build anticorruption DNA into the foundations of government action.

Second, in the United States, our whole-of-government effort must be better coordinated. Right now, we work across multiple agencies and in multiple offices to combat corruption. There is much information and many best practices that can be shared—we've got to do better at that and take advantage of those areas where we have been successful. The State Department and the United States Agency for International Development have done great work, but the vast nature of the problem requires that we improve our ability to tackle it. In this bill, agencies and bureaus and our missions overseas will have to prioritize corruption into their strategic planning as an essential part of our foreign policy work—a step that I believe will foster greater cooperation.

Third, we must improve oversight of our own foreign assistance and promote transparency. The U.S. taxpayer has a right to know how our foreign assistance is being spent, and also should feel confident that we are doing the kind of risk assessments, analysis, and oversight that ensure our assistance to other countries is having the effect we want it to have. My bill consolidates information and puts it online, where citizens can see the numbers and the programs. That kind of transparency is in and of itself good, but in my experience it has the effect of making us better at self-policing our work. We can use the data to capture redundancies

and analyze trends, which I believe will make our decision-making better. The bill embeds oversight into our foreign assistance programs overseas, maintaining the flexibility we need to meet our goals rapidly while also holding government to account.

In fact, it is a natural complement to the Foreign Assistance Transparency and Accountability Act, a bill Senator RUBIO and I co-sponsored that looks at our foreign aid and ensures that our foreign assistance programs are tracked and evaluated adequately and appropriately.

I am a believer in the power of example. This “one-two” punch of the Combating Global Corruption Act and the Foreign Assistance Transparency Act strengthens our foreign assistance policy, demonstrates that we hold ourselves to the highest standards, and shows other countries that we are committed to this fight.

Finally, we have to find ways to resource anti-corruption work. Corruption is big business and big money. We should look for ways to use seized assets and ill-gotten proceeds to build civil society capacity to fight corruption, and make it easier to transfer these assets to the appropriate effort. The Obama administration has built on the efforts of those before it to improve our ability to go after the big players, and there have been some great successes by the Treasury and Justice Departments in winning judgments and recovering assets. So we will look at the resources and the training and the intelligence needs, and we will make sure we have the tools and skills to continue those kinds of successes.

I want to close with a few words about something that is hard to capture in legislation. It is something that I grappled with when drafting this bill. It is something that perhaps, more than anything, will dictate if we win this struggle against corruption. And that is political will.

At the end of June, after six long years, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission issued a final rule to implement Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act, known as the “Cardin-Lugar provision”. This provision requires that all foreign and domestic companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges and involved in oil, gas, and mineral resource extraction must publish the project-level payments they make to the foreign countries in which they operate. This was a watershed moment in which the United States reclaimed its position as a leader in the effort to increase global accountability and transparency. Six years. That is the length of a term of a U.S. Senator. It is college and a Master's degree. It is the length of the horrific conflict in Syria. Six years for the United States to achieve greater revenue transparency in the extractives sector because we know secrecy breeds corruption and corruption can breed instability and perpetuate poverty in resource-rich countries. It took that long

because some people believed that less transparency is a good thing. Some groups believed that accountability should take a back seat to profitability.

I am under no illusion that this global fight against corruption will be easy. It will make the work of our government agencies more challenging. It will make our diplomacy more challenging. It will require political will. But political will finds its source and its strength in our values. Political will is created when we embrace those values. Political will endures in good governance, accountability, and transparency and those values that are at the core of the compact between the government and the governed.

As this bill moves forward, I urge my colleagues to find the political will to combat global corruption, ensure accountability, and keep our commitment to the best of American values.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3211. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3211

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cancer Care Payment Reform Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING AN ONCOLOGY MEDICAL HOME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE AND COST EFFICIENCY.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1866E (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–5) the following new section:

“SEC. 1866F. ONCOLOGY MEDICAL HOME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project (in this section referred to as the ‘demonstration project’) to make payments in the amounts specified in subsection (f) to each participating oncology practice (as defined in subsection (b)).

“(b) DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATING ONCOLOGY PRACTICE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘participating oncology practice’ means an oncology practice that—

“(1) submits to the Secretary an application to participate in the demonstration project in accordance with subsection (c);

“(2) is selected by the Secretary, in accordance with subsection (d), to participate in the demonstration project; and

“(3) is owned by a physician, or is owned by or affiliated with a hospital, that submitted

a claim for payment in the prior year for an item or service for which payment may be made under part B.

“(c) APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE.—An application by an oncology practice to participate in the demonstration project shall include an attestation to the Secretary that the practice—

“(1) furnishes physicians’ services for which payment may be made under part B;

“(2) coordinates oncology services furnished to an individual by the practice with services that are related to such oncology services and that are furnished to such individual by practitioners (including oncology nurses) inside or outside the practice in order to ensure that each such individual receives coordinated care;

“(3) meaningfully uses electronic health records;

“(4) will, not later than one year after the date on which the practice commences its participation in the demonstration project, be accredited as an Oncology Medical Home by the Commission on Cancer, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, or such other entity as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(5) will repay all amounts paid by the Secretary to the practice under subsection (f)(1)(A) in the case that the practice does not, on a date that is not later than 60 days after the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary, submit an application to an entity described in paragraph (4) for accreditation as an Oncology Medical Home in accordance with such paragraph;

“(6) will, for each year in which the demonstration project is conducted, report to the Secretary, in such form and manner as is specified by the Secretary, on—

“(A) the performance of the practice with respect to measures described in subsection (e) as determined by the Secretary, subject to subsection (e)(1)(B); and

“(B) the experience of care of individuals who are furnished oncology services by the practice for which payment may be made under part B, as measured by a patient experience of care survey based on the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey or by such similar survey as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(7) agrees not to receive the payments described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection (f)(1)(B)(iii) in the case that the practice does not report to the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (6) with respect to performance of the practice during the 12-month period beginning on the date on which the practice’s agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary;

“(8) will, for each year of the demonstration project, meet the performance standards developed under subsection (e)(4)(B) with respect to each of the measures on which the practice has agreed to report under paragraph (6)(A) and the patient experience of care on which the practice has agreed to report under paragraph (6)(B); and

“(9) has the capacity to utilize shared decision-making tools that facilitate the incorporation of the patient needs, preferences, and circumstances of an individual into the medical plan of the individual and that maintain provider flexibility to tailor care of the individual based on the full range of test and treatment options available to the individual.

“(d) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING PRACTICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this section, select oncology practices that submit an application to the

Secretary in accordance with subsection (c) to participate in the demonstration project.

“(2) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PRACTICES.—In selecting an oncology practice to participate in the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the participation of such practice in the demonstration project does not, on the date on which the practice commences its participation in the demonstration project—

“(A) increase the total number of practices participating in the demonstration project to a number that is greater than 200 practices (or such number as the Secretary determines appropriate); or

“(B) increase the total number of oncologists who participate in the demonstration project to a number that is greater than 1,500 oncologists (or such number as the Secretary determines appropriate).

“(3) DIVERSITY OF PRACTICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in selecting oncology practices to participate in the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, include in such selection—

“(i) small-, medium-, and large-sized practices; and

“(ii) practices located in different geographic areas.

“(B) INCLUSION OF SMALL ONCOLOGY PRACTICES.—In selecting oncology practices to participate in the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that at least 20 percent of the participating practices are small oncology practices (as determined by the Secretary).

“(4) NO PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OPT-OUTS BY PRACTICES.—In the case that the Secretary selects an oncology practice to participate in the demonstration project under this section that has agreed to participate in a model established under section 1115A for oncology services, such practice may not be assessed a penalty for electing not to participate in such model if the practice makes such election—

“(A) prior to the receipt by the practice of any payment for such model that would not otherwise be paid in the absence of such model; and

“(B) in order to participate in the demonstration project under this section.

“(e) MEASURES.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use measures described in paragraph (2), and may use measures developed under paragraph (3), to assess the performance of each participating oncology practice, as compared to other participating oncology practices as described in paragraph (4)(A)(i).

“(B) DETERMINATION OF MEASURES REPORTED.—In determining measures to be reported under subsection (c)(6)(A), the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders, shall ensure that reporting under such subsection is not overly burdensome and that those measures required to be reported are aligned with applicable requirements from other payors.

“(2) MEASURES DESCRIBED.—The measures described in this paragraph, with respect to individuals who are attributed to a participating oncology practice, as determined by the Secretary, are the following:

“(A) PATIENT CARE MEASURES.—

“(i) The percentage of such individuals who receive documented clinical or pathologic staging prior to initiation of a first course of cancer treatment.

“(ii) The percentage of such individuals who undergo advanced imaging and have been diagnosed with stage I or II breast cancer.

“(iii) The percentage of such individuals who undergo advanced imaging and have

been diagnosed with stage I or II prostate cancer.

“(iv) The percentage of such individuals who, prior to receiving cancer treatment, had their performance status assessed by the practice.

“(v) The percentage of such individuals who—

“(I) undergo treatment with a chemotherapy regimen provided by the practice;

“(II) have at least a 20-percent risk of developing febrile neutropenia due to a combination of regimen risk and patient risk factors; and

“(III) have received from the practice either GCSF or white cell growth factor.

“(vi) With respect to such individuals who receive chemotherapy treatment from the practice, the percentage of such individuals so treated who receive a treatment plan prior to the administration of such chemotherapy.

“(vii) With respect to chemotherapy treatments administered to such individuals by the practice, the percentage of such treatments that adhere to guidelines published by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network or such other entity as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(viii) With respect to antiemetic drugs dispensed by the practice to individuals as part of moderately or highly emetogenic chemotherapy regimens for such individuals, the extent to which such drugs are administered in accordance with evidence-based guidelines or pathways that are compliant with guidelines published by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network or such other entity as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(B) RESOURCE UTILIZATION MEASURES.—

“(i) With respect to emergency room visits in a year by such individuals who are receiving active chemotherapy treatment administered by the practice as of the date of such visits, the percentage of such visits that are associated with qualified cancer diagnoses of the individuals.

“(ii) With respect to hospital admissions in a year by such individuals who are receiving active chemotherapy treatment administered by the practice as of the date of such visits, the percentage of such admissions that are associated with qualified cancer diagnoses of the individuals.

“(C) SURVIVORSHIP MEASURES.—

“(i) Survival rates for such individuals who have been diagnosed with stage I through IV breast cancer.

“(ii) Survival rates for such individuals who have been diagnosed with stage I through IV colorectal cancer.

“(iii) Survival rates for such individuals who have been diagnosed with stage I through IV lung cancer.

“(iv) With respect to such individuals who receive chemotherapy treatment from the practice, the percentage of such individuals so treated who receive a survivorship plan not later than 45 days after the completion of the administration of such chemotherapy.

“(v) With respect to such individuals who receive chemotherapy treatment from the practice, the percentage of such individuals who receive psychological screening.

“(D) END-OF-LIFE CARE MEASURES.—

“(i) The number of times that such an individual receives chemotherapy treatment from the practice within an amount of time specified by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders, prior to the death of the individual.

“(ii) With respect to such individuals who have a stage IV disease and have received treatment for such disease from the practice, the percentage of such individuals so treated who have had a documented end-of-life care conversation with a physician in the practice

or another health care provider who is a member of the cancer care team of the practice.

“(iii) With respect to such an individual who is referred to hospice care by a physician in the practice or a health care provider who is a member of the cancer care team of the practice, regardless of the setting in which such care is furnished, the average number of days that the individual receives hospice care prior to the death of the individual.

“(iv) With respect to such individuals who die while receiving care from the practice, the percentage of such deceased individuals whose death occurred in an acute care setting.

“(3) MODIFICATION OR ADDITION OF MEASURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders in a manner determined by the Secretary, modify, replace, remove, or add to the measures described in paragraph (2).

“(B) APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘appropriate stakeholders’ includes oncology societies, oncologists who furnish oncology services to one or more individuals for which payment may be made under part B, allied health professionals, health insurance issuers that have implemented alternative payment models for oncologists, patients and organizations that represent patients, and biopharmaceutical and other medical technology manufacturers.

“(4) ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, for each year in which the demonstration project is conducted, assess—

“(i) the performance of each participating oncology practice for such year with respect to the measures on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(A), as compared to the performance of other participating oncology practices with respect to such measures; and

“(ii) the extent to which each participating oncology practice has, during such year, used breakthrough or other best-in-class therapies.

“(B) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders described in paragraph (3)(B) in a manner determined by the Secretary, develop performance standards with respect to—

“(i) each of the measures described in paragraph (2), including those measures as modified or added under paragraph (3); and

“(ii) the patient experience of care on which participating oncology practices agree to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(B).

“(f) PAYMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING ONCOLOGY PRACTICES AND ONCOLOGISTS.—

“(1) CARE COORDINATION MANAGEMENT FEE DURING FIRST TWO YEARS OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in addition to any other payments made by the Secretary under this title to a participating oncology practice, pay a care coordination management fee to each such practice at each of the times specified in subparagraph (B).

“(B) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—The care coordination management fee described in subparagraph (A) shall be paid to a participating oncology practice at the end of each of the following periods:

“(i) The period that ends 6 months after the date on which the practice's agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) The period that ends 12 months after the date on which the practice's agreement

period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary.

“(iii) Subject to subsection (c)(7)—

“(I) the period that ends 18 months after the date on which the practice's agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(II) the period that ends 24 months after the date on which the practice's agreement period for the demonstration project begins, as determined by the Secretary.

“(C) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with oncologists who furnish oncology services for which payment may be made under part B in a manner determined by the Secretary, determine the amount of the care coordination management fee described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (E), the Secretary shall, in addition to any other payments made by the Secretary under this title to a participating oncology practice, pay a performance incentive payment to each such practice for each year of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—The performance incentive payment described in subparagraph (A) shall be paid to a participating oncology practice as soon as practicable following the end of the third, fourth, and fifth years of the demonstration project.

“(C) SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.—Performance incentive payments made to participating oncology practices under subparagraph (A) for each of the years of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B) shall be paid from the aggregate pool available for making payments for each such year determined under subparagraph (D), as available for each such year.

“(D) AGGREGATE POOL AVAILABLE FOR MAKING PAYMENTS.—With respect to each of the years of the demonstration project described in described in subparagraph (B), the aggregate pool available for making performance incentive payments for each such year shall be determined by—

“(i) estimating the amount by which the aggregate expenditures that would have been expended for the year under parts A and B for items and services furnished to individuals attributed to participating oncology practices if the demonstration project had not been implemented exceeds such aggregate expenditures for such individuals for such year of the demonstration project;

“(ii) calculating the amount that is half of the amount estimated under clause (i); and

“(iii) subtracting from the amount calculated under clause (ii) the total amount of payments made under paragraph (1) that have not, in a prior application of this clause, previously been so subtracted from a calculation made under clause (ii).

“(E) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES THAT MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ACHIEVE SAVINGS.—

“(i) PAYMENTS ONLY TO PRACTICES THAT MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary may not make performance incentive payments to a participating oncology practice under subparagraph (A) with respect to a year of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B) unless the practice meets or exceeds the performance standards developed under subsection (e)(4)(B) for the year with respect to—

“(I) the measures on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(A); and

“(II) the patient experience of care on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(B).

“(i) CONSIDERATION OF PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders described in subsection (e)(3)(B) in a manner determined by the Secretary, determine the amount of a performance incentive payment to a participating oncology practice under subparagraph (A) for a year of the demonstration project described in subparagraph (B). In making a determination under the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall take into account the performance assessment of the practice under subsection (e)(4)(A) with respect to the year and the aggregate pool available for making payments for such year determined under subparagraph (D), as available for such year.

“(3) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidance detailing the methodology that the Secretary will use to implement subparagraphs (D) and (E) of paragraph (2).

“(g) SECRETARY REPORTS TO PARTICIPATING ONCOLOGY PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall inform each participating oncology practice, on a periodic (such as quarterly) basis, of—

“(1) the performance of the practice with respect to the measures on which the practice has agreed to report to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6)(A); and

“(2) the estimated amount by which the expenditures that would have been expended under parts A and B for items and services furnished to individuals attributed to the practice if the demonstration project had not been implemented exceeds the actual expenditures for such individuals.

“(h) APPLICATIONS FROM ENTITIES TO PROVIDE ACCREDITATIONS.—Not later than the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a process for the acceptance and consideration of applications from entities for purposes of determining which entities may provide accreditation to practices under subsection (c)(4) in addition to the entities described in such subsection.

“(i) REVISIONS TO DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Secretary may make appropriate revisions to the demonstration project under this section in order for participating oncology practices under such demonstration project to meet the definition of an eligible alternative payment entity for purposes of section 1833(z).

“(j) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive such provisions of this title and title XI as the Secretary determines necessary in order to implement the demonstration project under this section.

“(k) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to this section.”.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3213. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to draw attention to important legislation that would ensure American taxpayers know how their hard-earned dollars are being spent. This morning, I was pleased to join Senator LANKFORD to introduce a bill that expands on similar legislation that I introduced with Senator GARDNER last year, known as the Judgment Fund Transparency Act. The Judgment Fund is administered by the Treasury Depart-

ment and is used to pay certain court judgments and settlements against the Federal Government. It is essentially an unlimited amount of money made available to the Federal Government to cover its own liability.

The fund is not subject to the annual appropriations process. And even more remarkable, the Treasury Department has no reporting requirements. Because of this, the Judgment Fund payments are made with very little oversight or scrutiny. Because the Treasury Department has no binding reporting requirements, few public details exist about where the funds are going and why. This is no small matter, as the Judgment Fund disburses billions of dollars in payments every year. For example, between 2013 and 2015, the Federal Government paid more than \$10 billion in Judgment Fund awards with scant transparency or oversight. Hard-working taxpayers and Members of Congress have every right to see exactly how tax dollars are being spent out of this Judgment Fund.

I was proud to see my original version of the bill pass the Senate as part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act in April. Still, recent developments show more oversight is needed, and that is why I have joined with Senator LANKFORD to update and expand the Judgment Fund Transparency Act. This update is the result of payments made through the Judgment Fund to Iran earlier this year.

In January, the Obama administration transferred \$1.7 billion to Iran's Central Bank. It was paid in connection with the settlement of a claim relating to arms sales to the Shah. Last month, new reports indicated that the U.S. payment was transferred to Iran's defense budget. In defending the payment, White House spokesman Josh Ernst argued that it was “Exhibit A in the administration pursuing tough, principled diplomacy in a way that actually ends up making the American people safer and advancing their interests.”

I disagree. A \$1.7 billion payment that goes to Iran's military does not make our country safer. Iran was designated a state sponsor of terror in 1984. Its military has long provided weapons, training, and funding to groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and other proxies throughout the Middle East and beyond.

Last month, the State Department released its latest country reports on terrorism. It states: “In 2015, Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism worldwide remained undiminished.” In fact, the State Department report noted that in some areas, such as Iraq, its support to terrorist groups has actually increased. I am haunted by the fear that some of these very terrorists, groups that may have taken American lives, may have received money from the U.S. Treasury.

The bill that I am introducing with Senator LANKFORD today takes action. It would prohibit the Judgment Fund

from being used for this purpose while maintaining key provisions from the original bill requiring openness and transparency.

If the administration wants to deliver another payment to a regime that is going to sponsor terror, it should make its case to Congress and to the American people. More transparency leads to greater accountability. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Through this bill, we can track taxpayer-funded payments to foreign nations and prevent harmful transactions from happening in the future.

I thank Senator LANKFORD for his diligent work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to stand behind hard-working American taxpayers and support this legislation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3214. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Vote by Mail Act of 2016 to ensure that all registered voters have the opportunity to fully participate in our democracy.

Fifty-one years ago, President Johnson urged Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. In the face of implacable opposition from southern states, Johnson clearly laid out the stakes: “Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. There is no reason which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right.”

Sadly, half a century after that law began to remove the most egregious obstacles to voting, Americans are facing new barriers to exercising their fundamental right to vote. Across the country, there are stories of long lines, inexplicable purges of voter rolls and new requirements that make it harder for citizens to vote. There is no excuse for accepting this state of affairs.

There is no excuse for citizens in Arizona to wait 5 hours to cast their ballot. There is no excuse for citizens in Rhode Island to find two out of every three polling places have closed. There is no excuse whatsoever for poor communities and minority communities across this country to see their polling places shuttered.

Seniors and disabled Americans should not have to wait in long lines or struggle to reach polling places. Working parents shouldn't have to choose between going to work or going to vote. Voting should not be a test of endurance. It should not be a Kafkaesque experience in defeating bureaucracy.

Increasingly, too many voters show up to the polls on election day, only to find out their name is inexplicably missing from the voter rolls, or their

ID doesn't meet some new, more restrictive requirements. There is no excuse for our government to turn away citizens, to say their voice does not count, because of a clerical error or an unjust technicality.

These grossly unfair obstacles have sprouted like weeds across our Nation ever since the Supreme Court overturned large portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, just this year, 17 States have passed new laws or rules to make it harder for their citizens to vote.

Thankfully there is a solution. My home State of Oregon has led the Nation in making voting more accessible. In Oregon, every voter receives a ballot 2 or 3 weeks before an election date. With the arrival of that ballot, complete with candidate information and issue pamphlets, every Oregonian has ample time to research candidates and issues, think about them, discuss them with friends and family, and then vote. All in their own time. Rather than waiting in long lines, Oregonians can mail their ballot back, or drop it off at ballot collection sites, many of which are open 24-7. No one has to take time off work just to exercise his or her constitutional rights to vote.

Vote-by-mail won't stop every state legislature from devising new ways to suppress voter turnout. But one thing it will do is it will give voters more time to fight back. When Americans have two or three weeks to vote, they'll have more time to challenge registration problems. There's more time for citizens to defend their rights.

Oregon has been voting by mail locally since 1981. When I was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996 it was the first time vote-by-mail was used for a federal race. In 2000 Oregon went to an entirely vote-by-mail system including for President of the United States. Since then we have consistently had voter turnout rates that are among the highest in the country. Oregon voting rates are especially high among young voters and in midterm elections. As an added benefit, studies have shown it saved taxpayers money to boot.

Oregon is also leading the charge in another important aspect of our voting system—voter registration. Our representative democracy requires active participation from all our citizens—regardless of one's economic resources or state of residence. This is particularly the case when it comes to ensuring that the voter registration process is widely accessible and easy to navigate. In order to vote, eligible citizens must first register—a step in the political process that has historically been difficult to navigate and subject to onerous burdens designed to exclude citizens of color and lower-income citizens from easily casting a ballot.

Oregon is the first state in the nation to launch an automatic voter registration system, which automatically registers eligible citizens who visit the Department of Motor Vehicles, unless

they "opt out." This year alone, Oregon has successfully registered over 200,000 new voters. Our governor, Kate Brown, deserves enormous credit for shepherding this reform into law.

So my proposition is the rest of our country should follow Oregon's lead by offering all voters a chance to vote by mail, and automatically registering eligible voters. To me, this is a no-brainer.

Today I introduced new legislation for national vote-by-mail, which builds on Oregon's system and bills I introduced in 2007 and 2010. My plan is simple: Every voter in a Federal election will receive a ballot in the mail. The Federal Government, through the Postal Service, will assist states with the costs of mailing ballots to registered voters. States can keep their current polling practices if they wish, but those states that choose a full vote-by-mail system will see their election costs significantly drop. Additionally, this bill will shift the burden of registration from the individual to the government. It calls on state governments to collaborate with State motor vehicle agencies to maintain updated voter registration rolls for all citizens who apply for a driver's license and who do not ask to remain unregistered. This practice will serve to both increase the accuracy of our voter rolls and reduce the burden on individual voters by requiring state governments to ensure that eligible citizens are registered.

My hope is this can ignite a new campaign to make it easier, not harder for Americans to vote. Because vote-by-mail and automatic registration are just the first steps in fighting back against those who would disenfranchise their fellow citizens to gain a political edge.

I know many of my colleagues and many voters are cynical about the chances of passing real reforms in this partisan day and age. My view is voting rights are simply too important to abandon the field to special interests who would manipulate our government. So once again I urge my colleagues and urge voters to call for real reform to our voting system and ensure that every citizen who wants to vote has that opportunity.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3226. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who participated in a radiation cleanup mission in the Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands during the period beginning on January 1, 1977, and ending on December 31, 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Veterans Registry and Study Act of 2016. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Maine, Senator KING, in this initiative. Our bill would address an issue important to veterans, includ-

ing many in Maine, who participated in the Enewetak Atoll radiation cleanup missions from 1977 to 1980. These veterans may now be suffering from adverse health conditions due to exposure to radiation during these missions.

At the end of World War II, Enewetak Atoll came under the control of the United States, which used it to test nuclear bombs. From 1948 to 1958, Enewetak Atoll was the site of 43 U.S. nuclear tests. The combined federal effort to clean up the resulting radioactive waste cost about \$100 million over three years and required an on-atoll task force numbering almost 1,000 people.

The veterans who served on the cleanup task force did not ask to be sent to Enewetak Atoll. Like good servicemembers, they received their orders and went to work serving the U.S. government by cleaning up radioactive waste over a 3-year period. I have heard from several Enewetak Atoll veterans who have now developed cancers, and they have expressed their concerns that these cancers may be rooted in their service cleaning up nuclear material.

To address this troubling issue, our bill would help identify and bring together the shared experiences of those who served as a part of the Enewetak Atoll cleanup. It would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, VA, to establish a registry of U.S. veterans who participated in the cleanup missions of the Enewetak Atoll and who have subsequently experienced health issues. It would also direct the VA to commission an independent study investigating any possible linkage between radiation exposure during the cleanup missions and subsequent health problems among the servicemembers who served or trained there.

Protecting the health of those who have served our nation is a solemn responsibility. This legislation keeps faith with our veterans by demonstrating that our government takes the allegations of service-connected exposure to radiation seriously. We must fulfill our obligations and affirm a larger commitment made long ago to take care of those who have so proudly served our Nation—the patriots who have worn our Nation's uniform.

I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to voice my support for the Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Veterans Registry and Study Act of 2016. I am joined by my esteemed colleague from Maine, SUSAN COLLINS, in introducing this initiative, which will help to combat a very important issue facing the servicemen and women stationed at the Enewetak Atoll between 1977 and 1980. These veterans assisted in a radiation cleanup mission that may have exposed them to harmful nuclear waste, and may be causing them health problems to this day.

Between 1948 and 1958, the United States used the Enewetak Atoll for nuclear bomb testing. In 1977, after a

total of 43 nuclear tests, the United States engaged in a 3-year cleanup mission, costing \$100 million and requiring a task force of nearly 1,000 servicemembers. However, despite the clearly dangerous nature of handling radioactive material, there is no registry or health study for those who served at Enewetak during that time.

This bill would require the Secretary of the VA to establish a registry of veterans who served as part of the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, and have subsequently experienced health issues that may have resulted from exposure to radiation. In addition, the bill would direct the VA to commission an independent study investigating any linkages between those who were exposed to the radiation and subsequent health problems. It would allow for the gathering of targeted data for a better assessment of exposure, and would help determine whether these veterans should be granted the presumption of service-connection disabilities.

Throughout our Nation's history, our veterans have put themselves in harm's way to ensure our freedom time and time again. Their unwavering patriotism and courage demonstrate the fortitude of American character and our Nation's commitment to democracy worldwide. In response, we must do everything we can to follow through on our responsibility to provide for our veterans, and the brave men and women who served at Enewetak Atoll are no exception to this solemn duty. This bill demonstrates our commitment to honoring and respecting our Nation's heroes, past and present, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 3234. A bill to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, the Indian Trader Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on S. 3234, the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2016.

For years, Indian communities have experienced serious socio-economic challenges. Unacceptably high rates of unemployment, remote locations, and a lack of infrastructure are just a few of the problems affecting either the quality of life for Indian people or the ability to build strong sustainable economies.

The Federal programs available to facilitate or create economic opportunities are not structured to effectively target these communities. The Federal bureaucracy underlying various programs also inhibits economic growth as well.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, which I chair, has conducted several

hearings, listening sessions, and a roundtable on economic development. The primary concerns from Indian tribes, business owners, and tribal organizations have largely focused on access to capital. The Federal mechanisms for increasing available capital that have been used by Indian tribes or businesses to some degree include loan guarantees, tax credits, tax-exempt bond financing, community development financial institutions, CDFIs, and procurement programs.

This bill is intended to address several of these mechanisms by amending four key Federal laws affecting Indian communities: Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000; Native American Programs Act; Indian Trader Act; and the Buy Indian Act.

By amending these laws, the bill would benefit Indian communities by increasing access to capital for Indian tribes and businesses, increasing opportunities for Indian business promotion, and creating mechanisms and tools to attract business to Indian communities.

This bill will amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 in four ways. First, it would require interagency coordination between the Secretaries of Commerce, Interior, and Treasury to develop initiatives encouraging investment in Indian communities. It would elevate the Director for the Indian programs in the Department of Commerce. The bill would make permanent the waiver of the requirement for Native CDFIs to provide a matching cost share for assistance received by the Treasury CDFI. In addition, the bill would establish the Indian Economic Development Fund to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian loan guarantee and CDFI bond guarantee program for Indian communities.

The bill would also amend the Native American Programs Act to reauthorize the economic development programs. For economic development programs governed by this act, the bill would prioritize applications and technical assistance for building tribal court systems and code development for economic development, supporting CDFIs, and developing master plans for community and economic development.

This legislation would also amend the Indian Trader Act. The bill maintains current law and actions taken thereunder, but simply adds authority for the Secretary of the Interior to waive the licensing requirement for traders under this statute where an Indian tribe has a tribal law governing trade or commerce in its Indian lands.

The bill would amend the Buy Indian Act to facilitate the use of and more accountability for the Buy Indian Act in procurement decisions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Through this bill, more jobs at the local level would be created and small

businesses are assisted. Indian tribes could engage in more cohesive community development and infrastructure building. In addition, Federal bureaucracy is diminished, thereby reducing the costs of economic development.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this important and beneficial piece of legislation for Indian communities.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3241. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States' historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Refugee Protection Act, along with Senators Franken, Durbig and Hirono. The world is confronting the worst refugee crisis since World War II. There are more than 65 million people who have been forcibly displaced around the globe. In the face of such staggering human suffering, we must not lower our torch—we must raise it higher. The Refugee Protection Act of 2016 takes important steps to bolster and update our laws to address the urgency of today's crisis. Now, more than ever, we must reaffirm our role as a humanitarian leader and renew our commitment to those fleeing persecution across the world.

The ongoing conflict in Syria makes clear the enormity of the humanitarian crisis we face. The terror inflicted by Bashar Al-Assad's regime and ISIS, which now subjects vast swaths of the region to its barbaric rule, has forced more than half of Syria's 23 million people from their homes and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Currently, there are more than 4.8 million registered Syrian refugees, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and children.

The United States must assert its leadership in efforts to resettle the innocent victims of this catastrophe. That is precisely the call so many of us responded to a year ago when the world came together stunned and heartbroken over the image of a 3-year-old Syrian child's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach. His tragic death touched our hearts and focused our attention on the desperate plight of this population. We must not forget him or the plight of the thousands of other children who are attempting the same terrifying journey to safety.

We also cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis that is closer to home. Ruthless armed gangs in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala continue to brutalize women and children with impunity. El Salvador and Guatemala have the highest child murder rates in the world—higher even than in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. These three Central American countries also account for some of the highest rates of female homicide worldwide. The violence and impunity in the Northern

Triangle has forced thousands of mothers and children to flee and seek refuge wherever they can find it. The administration's Central American Refugees Minor, CAM program and its expansion of the Refugee Admissions Program in Central America are an acknowledgment of the unique protection needs resulting from this crisis.

In response to these challenges, and so many others around the world, we must adapt our laws to make good on our commitment as a nation of refuge and freedom. It is our moral obligation but it is also in our national interest.

Our refugee program sends a powerful message to the rest of the world: America is not your enemy. We stand against persecution and terrorism in all its forms. A strong refugee program undermines the hateful propaganda of ISIS that there is a war between Islam and the West, that Muslims are not welcome here, and that the ISIS caliphate is their true home. By offering refuge to the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of their religion or nationality, our refugee program lays bare those lies.

The landmark Refugee Act of 1980 affirmed the commitments we made in ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Refugee Protection Act of 2016 that I am introducing today would reaffirm the spirit of those commitments and ensure that our law is up to meeting the humanitarian crisis of our time.

First, our bill would repeal harsh and unnecessary hurdles that exist in current law. It would eliminate the requirement that asylees file for asylum within one year of arrival. This is an arbitrary deadline that has prevented many deserving people from pursuing legitimate protection claims. It is particularly harmful to those individuals who may be slow to come forward and recount their trauma, such as victims of rape or torture. The bill also includes important safeguards to ensure that victims of gender-based persecution and LGBT asylum-seekers receive the protection they deserve.

Second, our bill provides critical protections for children and families. It would enable vulnerable minors seeking asylum to have their cases adjudicated by an asylum officer in a non-adversarial setting. Importantly, our bill would require the Attorney General to appoint counsel for children and other vulnerable individuals, allowing those who cannot advocate for themselves to receive a fair day in court. It is unconscionable that young children are being brought before U.S. Immigration judges without a lawyer to represent them. And, it would provide that all children in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security must be adequately screened for protection needs.

Our legislation also includes important protections for refugee families. It would allow certain children and family members of refugees to be considered derivative applicants for refugee

status if they have undergone the requisite security checks. Refugees escaping persecution should not have to choose between finding refuge and keeping their families together.

Third, our bill promotes a more efficient asylum and refugee process. It would require timely notice of immigration charges and provide for updated conditions of detention, preventing individuals from languishing in detention at taxpayer expense and encouraging efficient case adjudication in our immigration courts. It includes measures to provide particularly vulnerable individuals with a full and fair opportunity to seek protection in the United States. The bill would also establish a secure "alternatives to detention" program to ensure the appearance of individuals in removal proceedings.

Finally, our bill would facilitate the integration of refugees into our communities, which is a longstanding tradition in this country. It ensures that the Reception and Placement grants, which help refugees become self-sufficient, are adjusted on an annual basis for inflation and cost of living. It would also provide that resettled refugees who work for our government overseas do not face unnecessary hurdles in their adjustment to lawful permanent residence. Our bill also authorizes a study of our refugee resettlement program and improves the collection of data to ensure that our resettlement system uses resources efficiently.

I am proud of the role Vermont has played in welcoming refugees. Since 1989, our State has welcomed nearly 8,000 refugees from more than a dozen war-torn countries. Recerthy, Mayor Christopher Louras and members of the Rutland community announced plans to resettle 100 Syrian refugees. I applaud their decision, which should serve as an example to other communities in Vermont and across the country. I am confident that Vermont will do its part to provide a welcoming home for these families.

I am hopeful that if we pause and remember the role refugees and asylum-seekers have played for generations in making our communities strong and vibrant, we will be able to move past the hateful, ugly rhetoric of this campaign season. Our moral obligation to innocent victims of persecution demands it, and our national interest requires it. I urge all Senators to support the Refugee Protection Act of 2016.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3252. A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my friend JOHN LEWIS often says that "the right to vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy." I could not agree more with him. We are a better and more representative Nation

when more Americans participate in our democracy, and we can help foster greater participation by modernizing the way we register our voters.

That is why today, I am introducing the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2016, a bill to require states to automatically register citizens who are eligible to vote by working with State and Federal agencies. Individuals have the option of declining automatic registration, but this bill would provide for a registration process that is more efficient and accurate. Importantly, the information used by the agencies to automatically register individuals will remain private and secure, and can only be used for voter registration, election administration, or prosecution of election crimes.

The bill also takes steps to streamline the voter registration process, by providing for online registration and greater portability of registration when an individual moves to a different location in the same state. Under this bill, no individual can be unfairly penalized for inadvertent registration, and punishment is preserved only in cases of intentional registration fraud or illegal voting. These are all common sense measures that would make it easier for Americans to maintain accurate voter registration information, and they further help to ensure that our voter rolls are current and up-to-date.

My efforts in trying to extend automatic registration to every State is consistent with efforts in Vermont, which became just the fourth State to pass an automatic voter registration bill this past April. The State of Vermont and its superb Secretary of State—Jim Condos—have been leaders in improving access to the ballot box. I cannot offer enough praise for what they have done.

State election officials have estimated that Vermont could add 30,000 to 50,000 voters to the State's rolls when its new automatic voter registration law takes effect after the 2016 election. Now imagine if we can provide similar improvements to the registration rolls for every State in this great Nation. Our union can only become stronger and more representative with the participation of a broader electorate. According to a report from the Brennan Center released in September 2015, a comprehensive automatic voter registration plan could potentially add up to 50 million eligible voters to the rolls. Moreover, not only would it save money and increase accuracy, but it would also reduce the potential for fraud and protect the integrity of our elections.

There is no reason why every eligible citizen cannot have the option of automatic registration when they visit the DMV, sign up for healthcare, or sign up for classes in college. These are just some of the agencies or institutions that would work with the States to provide for automatic voter registration. We live in a modern world, and we

should strive to have a registration system that reflects that.

I would like to thank the Brennan Center for Justice for working so closely with me and my staff on this bill. I would also like to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and DURBIN for joining me in introducing this bill. A House companion bill is being introduced by Congressman BRADY of Pennsylvania, the Ranking Member on the House Committee on House Administration. I am proud to join all of these individuals in fighting to increase access to the ballot box for all Americans.

The Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2016 is common sense legislation that all members of Congress should be able to support. However, this bill is part of a larger set of voting reforms that we must take on without further delay. We cannot talk about voting without mentioning the fact that this will be the first presidential election where the American people will be without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act since its original passage. It has now been more than three years since the Supreme Court's devastating decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

In that case, five justices severely weakened the Federal government's ability to prevent racial discriminatory voting changes from taking effect before those changes occur. The ruling's impact on voters across the country has been even worse than imagined. Before the ink dried on the Court's opinion, elected officials in several states rushed to exploit the decision by enacting voting laws that disproportionately prevent or discourage minorities from voting. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, at least 17 states have passed new voter restriction laws for the 2016 election. Millions of voters risk being disenfranchised for this election, and yet, this Republican majority—in both the House and the Senate—refuses to even hold a hearing on the issue.

The fundamental right to vote is too important for partisan politics. We must restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act to ensure that no American's right to vote is infringed, and we must implement an automatic voter registration system to ensure that every American who wishes to vote is able to do so. This is an issue that cannot wait. It is long past time for Congress to respond with action.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3263. A bill to promote innovation and realize the efficiency gains and economic benefits of on-demand computing by accelerating the acquisition and deployment of innovative technology and computing resources throughout the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, data has become a form of currency. Today,

businesses and government are processing and storing more information than ever. This creates access, organization, and security problems for government agencies using outdated, legacy IT systems.

I worked in the technology sector for over a decade. We were doing cloud computing before the cloud even had a name. So I know first-hand the advantages cloud computing offers from a cost-saving, organization, and security perspective.

The private sector is transitioning to cloud computing systems at a rapid pace, but the government continues to lag behind. There are unnecessary impediments related to planning, funding, and procurement that inhibit Federal agencies from migrating to cloud computing services.

That is why I am proud to join my colleagues Senator MORAN, Senator UDALL, and Senator WARNER in introducing the Cloud IT Act. This bill will accelerate deployment of cloud computing services in the Federal government by removing impediments to investment. It will streamline the procurement process for IT tools and encourage the government to work more closely with the cloud computing industry.

Migrating Federal government systems to cloud computing services will reduce redundancies and save time and taxpayer dollars. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this much needed legislation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3269. A bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act of 2016, with my Judiciary Committee colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY, LEAHY, and TILLIS.

This narrowly focused legislation responsibly cuts the red tape that hinders marijuana research, paving the way for important studies to determine if cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive component of marijuana often referred to as CBD, can be a safe and effective medication for serious illnesses, such as intractable epilepsy.

It does this while maintaining safeguards to protect against illegal diversion.

First, the bill directs the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to complete a scientific and medical evaluation of CBD within one year.

Based on this evaluation, the legislation directs the Department of Justice to make a scheduling recommendation for CBD that is independent of marijuana. This has never been done before.

Second, without sacrificing appropriate oversight, it streamlines the regulatory process for marijuana research.

In particular, it improves regulations dealing with changes to approved quantities of marijuana needed for research and approved research protocols.

It also expedites the Drug Enforcement Administration registration process for researching CBD and marijuana.

Third, this legislation seeks to increase medical research on CBD, while simultaneously reducing the stigma associated with conducting research on a Schedule I drug.

It does so by explicitly authorizing medical and osteopathic schools, research universities, and pharmaceutical companies to use a Schedule II Drug Enforcement Administration registration to conduct authorized medical research on CBD.

Given that the security requirements for conducting research on Schedule I and II drugs are nearly identical, this change would not jeopardize important safeguards against illegal diversion.

Fourth, the bill allows medical schools, research institutions, and pharmaceutical companies to produce the marijuana they need for authorized medical research. This will ensure that researchers have access to the material they need to develop proven, effective medicines.

Finally, the bill allows parents who have children with intractable epilepsy, as well as adults with intractable epilepsy, to possess and transport cannabidiol or other non-psychoactive components of marijuana used to treat this disease while research is ongoing.

To do so, parents and adults must be able to provide documentation that they or their child have been treated by a board-certified neurologist for at least 6 months, and have certifications from their neurologist that other treatment options have been exhausted, and that the potential benefits outweigh the harms of using these non-psychoactive components of marijuana.

The Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act will responsibly reduce barriers and spur additional research to ensure that CBD and other marijuana-derived medications are based on the most up to date scientific evidence.

I believe this bill is critical to help families across the country as they seek safe, effective medicines for serious illnesses, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3270. A bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have fought for years to protect our

Nation's seniors from abuse and exploitation—initially, as former Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, former Chairman of Senate Finance Committee, and more recently, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Two weeks ago, I chaired a Judiciary Committee hearing on Protecting Older Americans from Financial Exploitation. At the hearing, we heard about numerous scams in which seniors were targeted time after time, resulting in their being defrauded, often with devastating consequences. We also heard that many older Americans don't report instances of elder abuse or exploitation due to embarrassment, a refusal to acknowledge that they were victimized, or reliance on the perpetrator as their caretaker.

Sadly, these accounts of elder abuse are nothing new. What has changed is that the scams targeting seniors are becoming increasingly sophisticated. That is one of the reasons why elder financial exploitation has been dubbed "the crime of the 21st century."

I have made it a top priority to get the federal government to step up its efforts to fight the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of our Nation's seniors.

To this end, I recently called on the Justice Department to outline its efforts to prevent and respond to instances of elder abuse. First, I sent a letter to the Department to find out what it's doing to protect seniors from a new and particularly troubling form of exploitation: the photographing and online publication of nursing home residents in embarrassing and compromising situations.

I also sent a letter to inquire about the Department's efforts to fight impostor scams, in which fraudsters pose as employees of the IRS or another government agency, in order to deprive ordinary Americans of millions of dollars of their hard earned money.

Most recently, I asked about the data the Department is collecting on financial exploitation, as well as how this data is being used to support Federal efforts to protect America's seniors.

In its response to my inquiries, the Justice Department effectively admitted that it falls short in several respects. The Department said that it "does not collect data on the prevalence of elder financial exploitation nationwide." Further, the Department said that it can't provide statistical information on the number of cases it has prosecuted for elder financial exploitation.

What all this means is that we are not getting the full picture of elder financial exploitation.

We do know that some older Americans' trusting and polite nature, combined with their hard-earned retirement savings, make them particularly attractive targets for fraudsters. We also know that the abuse and exploitation of older Americans is on the rise and it can take many forms.

Financial exploitation is the most widespread form of elder abuse, costing America's seniors between an estimated \$2.9 billion and \$36 billion annually. But, sadly, its costs aren't limited to the negative effect on seniors' bank accounts. Victims suffer all sorts of negative effects, including diminished health, loss of independence, and psychological distress.

It is estimated that up to 37 percent of seniors in the United States are affected by some form of financial exploitation in any 5-year period.

In my home State of Iowa, so-called grandparent scams are on the rise. In these scams, fraudsters present themselves to an older American as a grandchild in distress, hoping to convince the grandparent to send cash or give out a credit card number.

Con artists are also using sweepstakes scams to steal money from seniors. A senior is called and told they have won a prize or sum of money. But before they can claim the supposed prize, the victim is required to pay taxes or processing fees. Once the money is paid to cover the taxes and fees, however, no prize ever materializes.

Other instances of elder financial exploitation are more personal in nature and have especially devastating effects. Some victims are pressured into signing over a deed, modifying a will, or giving a power of attorney. Americans have lost their farms, homes, and life savings to this form of fraud.

In short, elder abuse and exploitation is a serious problem, and it demands a strong response. It requires all of us to work together in a collaborative way.

So, today I am proud to introduce the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act. I thank my colleagues—Senators BLUMENTHAL, CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, RUBIO, and BENNET for collaborating with me on this comprehensive bill's development and joining as original cosponsors. It takes a multi-pronged, bipartisan approach to combating the abuse and financial exploitation of our nation's senior citizens.

We've heard a need for specialized prosecutors and more focused efforts to combat abuse and exploitation. That is why the bill directs the Attorney General to designate at least one federal prosecutor in each U.S. Attorney's Office to serve as an Elder Justice Coordinator for that district.

To ensure that elder abuse is a priority for the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department, the bill also calls for each agency to have an Elder Justice Coordinator.

We also need to send a strong message that efforts to target our Nation's seniors won't be tolerated. That is why the bill enhances elder victims' access to restitution and increases penalties for criminals who use telemarketing or email in their schemes to defraud seniors.

The bill also requires that the Justice Department partner with the Department of Health and Human Serv-

ices to provide training and technical assistance to State and local governments on the investigation, prevention, prosecution, and mitigation of elder abuse and neglect.

Finally we have heard about the need for more data on financial exploitation and the government's response. Gathering accurate information about elder abuse is not only crucial to understanding the scope of the problem, but it is also essential in determining where resources should be allocated. So, the bill helps to accomplish that. It requires that data be collected from federal prosecutors and law enforcement in cases where an older American was the target of abuse or exploitation.

These and other reforms included in the bill are the product of bipartisan discussion, as well as insight from key stakeholders and those who've been battling on the front lines.

This 21st century crime requires a 21st century response. The Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act takes a strong step toward protecting our Nation's seniors, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3276. A bill to make habitual drunk drivers inadmissible and removable and to require the detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and has been charged with driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Obama administration is putting Americans into harm's way by releasing drunk drivers who are in the country illegally back onto our streets. This is unbelievable when you consider that every two minutes, a person is injured by a drunk driver, and every day in America, 27 people die as a result of a drunk driving crash. These numbers translate into real people.

I would like to talk about my constituent, Sarah Root, who was killed by a drunk driver the day she graduated from college. On January 31, 2016, Eswin Mejia, a Honduran national in the United States illegally, was drag racing in Omaha, NE, with a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit. He struck 21-year-old Sarah Root's vehicle from behind and she was killed. Mejia was charged with felony motor vehicle homicide. Although state authorities reportedly contacted ICE several times and requested the agency take custody of him prior to his release from state custody, ICE refused. He was released on bond and is now a fugitive from justice.

In Kentucky, Chelsea Hogue and Meghan Lake were seriously injured by a drunk driver in the country illegally who had been previously deported five times in one week. On February 7, 2016,

Jose Munoz Aguilar was arrested for drunk driving and colliding with a car occupied by the two young women, causing injuries to both women and putting one in a coma. Although Jose Aguilar was transferred to ICE custody, he was promptly released because he didn't meet the Obama administration's enforcement priorities. He remains at large.

In May, three people from a Texas family were killed by a suspected drunk driver who had an outstanding warrant for a previous drunk driving conviction. He had three prior DWI offenses. One of the three family members—18 year old Mauricio Ramirez—was scheduled to graduate from high school just a few short weeks later.

In Houston this May, an illegal immigrant who was driving drunk and evading authorities injured a high school senior and killed a young girl who were on their way home from prom. The driver had been previously deported and attempted to run from the scene.

On February 24, 2016, Esmid Valentine Pedraza was arrested in San Francisco, California, for the murder of Stacey Aguilar. Prior to allegedly committing the murder, Pedraza was reportedly arrested by ICE and placed in removal proceedings in August 2013 after Pedraza's conviction for DUI in Alameda County, California. Although ICE could have continued to detain him, ICE released him back onto the streets after he posted bond.

Mesa, AZ Police Department Sergeant Brandon Mendoza lost his life to an illegal immigrant who was driving the wrong way down a one-way street. The driver was three times over the legal limit and high on meth when he struck Sgt. Mendoza head on. Sgt. Mendoza had just finished his shift of keeping citizens and his community safe.

Police Officer Kevin Will of Houston, TX, was struck and killed by a drunk driver as he investigated a hit-and-run accident. The driver was in the country illegally.

In Phoenix, Police Officer Daryl Raetz was killed by a man who admitted to being drunk and high, and was in the country illegally. Officer Raetz was an Iraq war veteran and had been a police officer for 6 years. He left behind a wife and daughter.

Nobody argues that drunk driving is not a public safety risk, so it is remarkable that the Obama administration's own immigration enforcement priorities fail to take perpetrators off the street. Families coping with the grief of losing a loved one to such a senseless crime must also live with the reality that their government is quick to release offenders back into our communities.

Today, along with several other Senators, I am introducing the Taking Action Against Drunk Drivers Act. Our bill would ensure that federal immigration authorities take custody and hold anyone in the country illegally who

has been charged with driving under the influence, DUI, or driving while intoxicated, DWI, taking them off the streets and protecting the public.

Additionally, my bill would make immigrants with three DUI or DWI convictions inadmissible to and removable from the country. Finally, it would make three DUI or DWI convictions an aggravated felony under the Immigration and Nationality Act. This will allow for expedited removal and preclude eligibility for certain benefits and permanently bar legal admission into the country.

We cannot let this current system that promotes the reckless death of innocent Americans continue. I encourage my colleagues to join me in an effort to protect our citizens from these dangerous people.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3281. A bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3281

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.

Section 13(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2026".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 535—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT FENTANYL INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO AND CHINA

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 535

Whereas the United States continues to experience a prescription opioid and heroin use epidemic that claimed almost 30,000 lives in 2014;

Whereas fentanyl is a synthetic opioid and the euphoric effects of fentanyl are sometimes indistinguishable from the euphoric effects of heroin or morphine;

Whereas the effect of fentanyl can be approximately 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine;

Whereas although pharmaceutical fentanyl can be diverted for misuse, most fentanyl deaths are believed to be linked to illicitly

manufactured fentanyl and illicit versions of chemically similar compounds known as fentanyl analogs (collectively referred to in this preamble as "illicit fentanyl");

Whereas illicit fentanyl is potentially lethal even if only a very small quantity of illicit fentanyl is ingested or inhaled;

Whereas across the United States, illicit fentanyl use and related deaths are rising at alarming rates;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is cheaper to manufacture than heroin and the sale of illicit fentanyl is highly profitable for drug dealers;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is sold for its heroin-like effects and illicit fentanyl is often mixed with heroin, cocaine, or methamphetamine as a combination product, with or without the knowledge of the user;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is often produced to physically resemble other opioid pain medicines, such as oxycodone, which sell for high amounts on the street;

Whereas drug users often overdose on illicit fentanyl because users are unaware that they are ingesting illicit fentanyl and do not anticipate the toxicity and potential lethality of illicit fentanyl;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 2013 and 2014, the death rate from the use of synthetic opioids, including illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioid pain relievers other than methadone, increased 80 percent, and those deaths are largely attributable to fentanyl rather than other prescription synthetics;

Whereas, in 2015, the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the "DEA") issued a National Drug Threat Assessment Summary, which found that Mexican transnational criminal organizations are—

(1) one of the greatest criminal drug threats to the United States; and

(2) poly-drug organizations that use established transportation routes and distribution networks to traffic heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana throughout the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, the DEA issued a National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary, which found that "starting in late 2013, several states reported spikes in overdose deaths due to fentanyl and its analog acetylfentanyl";

Whereas the 2016 National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary found that—

(1) Mexican drug traffickers are expanding their operations to gain a larger share of eastern United States heroin markets; and

(2) the availability of heroin is increasing throughout the United States;

Whereas between 2013 and 2014, more than 700 fentanyl-related deaths in the United States were attributable to illicit fentanyl;

Whereas the number of deaths attributable to illicit fentanyl may be significantly underreported because—

(1) coroners and medical examiners do not test, or lack the resources to test, routinely for fentanyl;

(2) crime laboratories lack the resources to test routinely for fentanyl; and

(3) illicit fentanyl deaths may erroneously be attributed to heroin;

Whereas, in March 2015, the DEA issued a nationwide alert on illicit fentanyl as a threat to health and public safety;

Whereas illicit fentanyl has the potential to endanger public health workers, first responders, and law enforcement personnel who may unwittingly come into contact with illicit fentanyl by accidentally inhaling airborne powder;

Whereas the 2015 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary found that—

(1) Mexico is the primary source for illicit fentanyl trafficked into the United States; and

(2) distributors in China are the source of the fentanyl analogs and the precursor chemicals to manufacture fentanyl analogs that are found in Mexico;

Whereas fentanyl produced illicitly in Mexico is—

(1) smuggled across the southwest border of the United States, or delivered through mail and express consignment couriers; and

(2) often mixed with heroin or diluents in the United States and then distributed in the same United States markets in which white powder heroin is distributed; and

Whereas United States law enforcement officials have recently seen—

(1) an influx of illicit fentanyl into the United States directly from China; and

(2) shipments of the equipment to manufacture illicit fentanyl, such as pill presses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the use of illicit fentanyl in the United States and the resulting overdose deaths are a public health crisis;

(2) the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States, especially the trafficking of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, is a problem that requires close cooperation between the United States Government and the Governments of Mexico and China;

(3) the United States Government and the Governments of Mexico and China have a shared interest in, and responsibility for, stopping the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States and all 3 countries should develop joint actions to attain that goal;

(4) the United States should—

(A) support the Governments of Mexico and China in the efforts of the Governments of Mexico and China to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States;

(B) take further measures to reduce and prevent heroin and fentanyl consumption through the use of evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services; and

(C) provide access to treatment and rehabilitation to help individuals with substance use disorders recover; and

(5) the United States Government, including the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, should use the broad diplomatic and law enforcement resources of the United States, in partnership with the Governments of Mexico and China, to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 536—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 2016, AS “NATIONAL OBESITY CARE WEEK”

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 536

Whereas the disease of obesity is a major source of concern across the United States, and more than one-third of adults in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people with severe obesity in the United States continuing to grow;

Whereas experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors;

Whereas, while prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and fami-

lies currently affected by obesity receive comprehensive care and treatment;

Whereas studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by obesity among general society and healthcare professionals are significant barriers to effectively treating the disease;

Whereas healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and families should regard obesity with the same level of seriousness with which other chronic diseases are regarded;

Whereas research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of Federal and State initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and help control healthcare costs;

Whereas healthcare professionals should treat patients with respect and compassion and should partner with patients to develop comprehensive and individualized approaches to weight loss and weight management that consider all appropriate treatment options, such as reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery; and

Whereas it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve individual, corporate, and institutional partners in all fields taking active roles, to ignite the betterment of obesity care and treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as “National Obesity Care Week”; and

(2) encourages all people in the United States to create a foundation of open communication to break barriers of misunderstanding and stigma regarding obesity and to improve the lives of all individuals affected by obesity and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 537—EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONCERN ABOUT THE ONGOING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA, URGING THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND CALLING FOR RESPECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 537

Whereas the deterioration of basic governance and the economic crisis in Venezuela have reached deeply troubling levels, which in turn have led to an unprecedented humanitarian situation in Venezuela where millions of people are suffering from severe shortages of essential medicines and basic food products;

Whereas Venezuela lacks more than 80 percent of the basic medical supplies and equipment needed to treat its population, including medicine to treat chronic illnesses and cancer as well as basic antibiotics, and 85 percent of pharmacies are at risk of bankruptcy, according to the Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation;

Whereas, despite the massive shortages of basic foodstuffs and essential medicines, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro has

rejected repeated requests from the majority of members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations to bring humanitarian aid into the country;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund assesses that, in Venezuela, inflation reached 275 percent and gross domestic product contracted 5.7 percent in 2015, and further projects that inflation will reach 720 percent and the gross domestic product will contract an additional 8 percent in 2016;

Whereas Venezuela's political, economic, and humanitarian crisis is fueling social tensions that are resulting in growing incidents of public unrest, looting, and violence among citizens;

Whereas these social distortions are taking place amidst an alarming climate of violence as Caracas continues to have the highest per capita homicide rate in the world at 120 per 100,000 citizens, according to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime;

Whereas the deterioration of governance in Venezuela has been exacerbated by widespread public corruption and the involvement of public officials in illicit narcotics trafficking and related money laundering, which has led to indictments by the United States Department of Justice and ongoing investigations by the United States Department of Treasury and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

Whereas domestic and international human rights groups recognize more than 85 political prisoners in Venezuela, including opposition leader and former Chacao mayor Leopoldo Lopez, Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, former Zulia governor Manuel Rosales, and former San Cristobal mayor Daniel Ceballos;

Whereas, in December 2015, the people of Venezuela elected the opposition coalition (Mesa de Unidad Democrática) to a two-thirds majority in the unicameral National Assembly, with 112 out of the 167 seats compared with 55 seats for the government's Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela party;

Whereas, in late December 2015, the outgoing National Assembly increased the number of seats in the Supreme Court of Venezuela and confirmed magistrates politically aligned with the Maduro Administration and, thereafter, the expanded Supreme Court has blocked four legislators, including 3 opposition legislators, from taking office;

Whereas, during the first 6 months of the new legislature, the Supreme Court has repeatedly issued politically motivated judgments to overturn legislation passed by the democratically elected National Assembly and block internal legislative procedures;

Whereas, in 2016, President Maduro has utilized emergency and legislative decree powers to bypass the National Assembly, which, alongside the actions of the Supreme Court, have severely undermined the principles of separation of powers in Venezuela;

Whereas, in May 2016, Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro presented a 132-page report outlining grave alterations of the democratic order in Venezuela and invoked Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which calls on the OAS Permanent Council “to undertake a collective assessment of the situation”;

Whereas, in June 2016, at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico, President Barack Obama stated, “Given the very serious situation in Venezuela and the worsening plight of the Venezuelan people, together we’re calling on the government and opposition to engage in meaningful dialogue and urge the Venezuelan government to respect the rule of law and the authority of the National Assembly.”; and

Whereas, at the joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Peña Nieto, President Barack Obama continued, “Political prisoners should be released. The democratic process should be respected and that includes legitimate efforts to pursue a recall referendum consistent with Venezuelan law.”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern about widespread shortages of essential medicines and basic food products faced by the people of Venezuela, and urges President Maduro to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(2) calls on the Government of Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners, to provide protections for freedom of expression and assembly, and to respect internationally recognized human rights;

(3) supports meaningful efforts towards a dialogue that leads to respect for Venezuela’s constitutional mechanisms and resolves the country’s political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis;

(4) affirms its support for OAS Secretary General Almagro’s invocation of Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and urges the OAS Permanent Council, which represents all of the organization’s member states, to undertake a collective assessment of the constitutional and democratic order in Venezuela;

(5) expresses its great concern over the Venezuelan executive’s lack of respect for the principle of separation of powers, its overreliance on emergency decree powers, and its subjugation of judicial independence;

(6) calls on the Government of Venezuela and security forces to respect the Constitution of Venezuela, including constitutional provisions that provide Venezuelan citizens with the right to peacefully pursue a fair and timely recall referendum for their president this year if they so choose;

(7) stresses the urgency of strengthening the rule of law and increasing efforts to combat impunity and public corruption in Venezuela, which has bankrupted a resource-rich country, fuels rising social tensions, and contributes to elevated levels of crime and violence; and

(8) urges the President of the United States to provide full support for OAS efforts in favor of constitutional and democratic solutions to the political impasse, and to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of United States law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas approximately 282,000 individuals in the United States live with a spinal cord injury;

Whereas spinal cord injuries account for billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages in the United States;

Whereas approximately 40,000 spinal cord injury victims are veterans who suffered a spinal cord injury while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries and the third leading cause of traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents account for approximately 50 percent of all spinal cord injuries to children under the age of 18;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce and prevent future incidences of paralysis and reverse current incidences of paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for victims of spinal cord injuries, improving the quality of life of victims of spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for promising new therapies that offer hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people of the United States that are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with a spinal cord injury and the families of individuals living with a spinal cord injury.

SENATE RESOLUTION 539—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND HATRED IN DALLAS, TEXAS, ON JULY 7, 2016, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THE TRAGEDY

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 539

Whereas, on July 7, 2016, during a rally and march in Dallas, Texas, a lone gunman opened fire, killing 5 police officers and wounding 9 other officers and 2 bystanders;

Whereas this act of violence and hatred is the deadliest attack on United States law enforcement officers since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas this act of violence and hatred occurred during a lawful, peaceful, nonviolent political demonstration;

Whereas this attack took place with the intention of targeting police officers;

Whereas Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel performed their duties admirably during the attack and risked their lives for the safety of the people of Dallas; and

Whereas the residents of Dallas came together to support the victims, and the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous attack that occurred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016;

(2) expresses its belief that an attack upon a police officer is an affront to the rule of law and the promise of justice, domestic tranquility, common defense, and general welfare and the blessings of liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States;

(3) offers its condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed while protecting the city of Dallas and expresses its hope for the quick and complete recovery of the survivors wounded in the shooting;

(4) applauds the bravery and dedication exhibited by the hundreds of Federal, State,

and local law enforcement officials, emergency medical responders, and others who offered their support and assistance; and

(5) stands together united against violence and hatred, and in support of the brave and honorable police officers across the United States who work every day to keep the country safe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 540—COMMENDING THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR THEIR WORK IN FIGHTING EBOLA

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 540

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service (in this preamble referred to as the “Commissioned Corps”) traces its antecedents to the creation of the Marine Hospital Service in the Act entitled “An Act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen”, approved July 16, 1798;

Whereas the Commissioned Corps today consists of approximately 6,700 commissioned officers who serve in 11 specialty areas;

Whereas thousands of officers of the Commissioned Corps have deployed in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and Superstorm Sandy;

Whereas almost 900 officers of the Commissioned Corps deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to support members of the Armed Forces stationed in those locations;

Whereas the officers of the Commissioned Corps constitute a rapidly-deployable force of medical professionals who serve public health in the United States and foreign countries;

Whereas more than 300 officers of the Commissioned Corps deployed to Liberia to treat Ebola patients, voluntarily accepting the risks associated with treating patients who carried this deadly disease;

Whereas hundreds of other officers of the Commissioned Corps provided support to the officers who were deployed to Liberia;

Whereas the Ebola epidemic in Liberia no longer represents a public health emergency of international concern, as determined by the World Health Organization, due in part to the intervention of officers of the Commissioned Corps; and

Whereas the United States was spared the danger of an Ebola outbreak because the disease was contained in West Africa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends all of the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service who participated in the effort to prevent an Ebola outbreak in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 541—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK AND HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2016, AS “HAWAII VOLCANOES AND HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARKS DAY”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 541

Whereas the Hawaii National Park was established by section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to establish a national park in the Territory of Hawaii”, approved August 1, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 391), consisting of tracts of land on the island of Hawaii and on the island of Maui;

Whereas the portion of the Hawaii National Park situated on the island of Hawaii was renamed Hawaii Volcanoes National Park by Public Law 87-278 (16 U.S.C. 391d);

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park protects and interprets the largest and most continuously active shield volcanoes in the United States and provides the best physical evidence of island-building processes, which continue to form the 2,000 mile-long Hawaiian archipelago;

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park provides access to 2 of the most active volcanoes in the world and an opportunity to understand and appreciate the distinctive geology and natural and cultural adaptations to the land;

Whereas, through Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the National Park Service protects, restores, and studies unique and diverse ecosystems and endemic species that are the result of more than 30,000,000 years of evolution in an isolated environment characterized by its active volcanic landscape and wide climate variations;

Whereas, in 1978, more than 100,000 acres of the park were designated as wilderness, which constitutes the largest and most ecologically diverse wilderness in the Pacific Islands, by section 401(6) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note);

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park embraces the Native Hawaiian spiritual significance of the landscape and interprets related cultural traditions;

Whereas the park encompasses sites, structures, objects, and landscapes that document more than 600 years of human life and activities on an active volcanic landscape;

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization designated Hawaii Volcanoes National Park as a biosphere reserve in 1980 and as a World Heritage Site on December 10, 1987;

Whereas, effective July 1, 1961, Haleakala National Park was established by Public Law 86-744 (16 U.S.C. 396b) as a separate unit of the National Park System on the detached portion of the Hawaii National Park on the island of Maui;

Whereas Haleakala National Park protects a wild volcanic landscape with a wide array of fragile and diverse native ecosystems, including plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth;

Whereas extreme gradients of rainfall and temperature shape the remarkable biodiversity of Haleakala National Park, which rises approximately 10,000 feet from the sea to the summit of the Haleakala shield volcano;

Whereas Haleakala National Park preserves places, resources, stories, and intangible elements of profound sacred importance to Native Hawaiians;

Whereas those elements are linked by the piko, the lifeline that honors the past and connects the living Hawaiian culture of today to future generations;

Whereas Haleakala National Park is known for its exceptional scenery, including sunrises and sunsets above the clouds, coursing waterfalls, clear pools, and crashing waves, lush rainforests, and sparkling, star-filled skies;

Whereas the Haleakala shield volcano, one of the highest peaks in the Pacific, is the result of countless volcanic eruptions during the past 2,000,000 years and unique erosion in action;

Whereas Public Law 94-567 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) designated more than 19,000 acres of Haleakala National Park as wilderness in 1976, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization designated the park as a biosphere reserve in 1980; and

Whereas Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park were the first national park units in a territory of the United States and are 2 of the 8 units of the National Park System in the Hawaiian islands: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and celebrates Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park on the 100th anniversary of their establishment;

(2) acknowledges the range of natural and cultural wonders that make up the other national parks and monuments of the State of Hawaii, including—

(A) Honouliuli National Monument;

(B) Kalaupapa National Historical Park;

(C) Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park;

(D) Puuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park;

(E) Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site; and

(F) World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument;

(3) encourages the people of Hawaii and of the United States to visit those parks and monuments, which are national treasures; and

(4) designates August 1, 2016, as “Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 542—RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LANHAM ACT BY DESIGNATING JULY 2016 AS “NATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 542

Whereas July 5, 2016, marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Act of July 5, 1946 (60 Stat. 427, ch. 540; 15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”) by President Harry S. Truman;

Whereas the Lanham Act provided the foundation for modern Federal trademark protection, creating remedies for brand owners suffering from trademark infringement and helping consumers by reducing confusingly similar products in the marketplace;

Whereas the Lanham Act was named for Representative Fritz Lanham of Texas, the primary sponsor of the Act, who recognized that the uniformity provided by the establishment of a Federal trademark law was necessary to create a nationwide framework for the protection of the trademarks of businesses, including logos, words, phrases, names, packaging, scents, shapes, and colors;

Whereas the Lanham Act has enabled the United States Patent and Trademark Office to administer a strong and effective Federal trademark registration system that helps trademark and brand owners protect consumers from confusion and deception in the marketplace and in commerce;

Whereas Representative Lanham stated that a clear purpose of the Lanham Act was to “protect legitimate business and the consumers of the country”;

Whereas in 2012, approximately 24,000,000 trademarks were in force around the world;

Whereas the Lanham Act has provided 7 decades of protection for the consumers and industries of the United States, which is of growing importance given the explosion of counterfeiting activity associated with the growth of both global commerce and electronic commerce (commonly referred to as “e-commerce”);

Whereas counterfeit products undermine laws, including the Lanham Act, that serve to safeguard consumers and brand owners against deceptive products in the marketplace;

Whereas counterfeiters use deceptive practices to entice consumers to purchase counterfeit goods including—

(1) personal care products, including toothpaste, shampoo, laundry detergents, soaps, and cosmetics;

(2) toys;

(3) automotive parts;

(4) military equipment;

(5) foods;

(6) medicines and pharmaceuticals;

(7) petroleum products, including motor and engine oil;

(8) computer chips;

(9) agricultural pesticides and seeds; and

(10) apparel, footwear, and accessories;

Whereas counterfeit products pose actual and potential harm to the consumers of the United States, especially the most vulnerable consumers in society, such as senior citizens, children, and individuals who might fall prey to the deceptive tactics of counterfeiters;

Whereas counterfeit products threaten the economy of the United States and job creation in the United States, given that intellectual property is a cornerstone of the economy;

Whereas, according to a report issued on April 18, 2016, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the manufacturing, trade, and consumption of counterfeit products is on the rise and trade in counterfeit products continues to increase, escalating from approximately \$250,000,000,000 in 2008 to as much as \$461,000,000,000 in 2013;

Whereas there is a need to support the efforts of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center to minimize counterfeit activity and educate consumers about the illegal activities that consumer money might support when consumers knowingly or unknowingly purchase counterfeit products;

Whereas brand owners, including corporations and medium-sized and small businesses, collectively spend billions of dollars annually to remove counterfeit products from the marketplace, including the online marketplace, in an effort to safeguard consumers from counterfeit products;

Whereas, over time, counterfeiting contributes to the steady erosion of the reputation of brand owners and the trustworthiness and goodwill such owners establish with consumers to provide reliable and safe products;

Whereas the Congressional Trademark Caucus is actively working to raise awareness of the value of trademarks and the impact of trademarks on national and State economies, as well as the threat posed by counterfeit products in undermining the safeguards that trademark protections provide for consumers and brand owners alike;

Whereas many governmental and non-governmental entities, including Federal enforcement agencies, the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, State enforcement agencies, and consumer groups, share responsibility for, and dedicate substantial resources towards, educating the

people of the United States about the potential harms that can arise from counterfeit products in the marketplace; and

Whereas recognition and commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Lanham Act serves as a means of educating the people of the United States about the importance of further raising awareness of the dangers counterfeit products pose to consumer health and safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Act of July 5, 1946 (60 Stat. 427, ch. 540; 15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”) by President Harry S. Truman;

(2) designates July 2016 as “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month”;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month to educate the public and raise public awareness about the actual and potential dangers counterfeit products pose to consumer health and safety;

(4) affirms the continuing importance and need for comprehensive Federal, State, and private sector-supported education and awareness efforts designed to equip the consumers of the United States with the information and tools they need to safeguard against illegal counterfeit products in traditional commerce, internet commerce, and other electronic commerce platforms;

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Lanham Act with appropriate anti-counterfeiting education and awareness activities; and

(6) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to combating counterfeiting by promoting awareness about the actual and potential harm of counterfeiting to consumers and brand owners and by promoting new education programs and campaigns designed to reduce the supply of and demand for counterfeit products.

SENATE RESOLUTION 543—COMMEMORATING THE PAST SUCCESS OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS AND SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS IN THE 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 543

Whereas, for more than 120 years, the Olympic Movement has built a better and more peaceful world by educating young people through amateur athletics, bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the 2016 Olympic Games will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from August 5, 2016, to August 21, 2016, and the 2016 Paralympic Games will take place in Rio de Janeiro from September 7, 2016, to September 18, 2016;

Whereas, at the 2016 Olympic Games, more than 200 countries will compete in more than 300 events in 42 disciplines, and at the 2016 Paralympic Games, approximately 170 countries will compete in 528 events in 23 disciplines;

Whereas the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams have won 1,711 gold medals, 1,415 silver medals, and 1,351 bronze medals, totaling 4,477 medals, during the past Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect for and admiration of the members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and the athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, and dedication to excellence of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams;

Whereas the many accomplishments of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many others, including individuals on the United States Olympic Committee and the National Governing Bodies for Sport and the many administrators, coaches, and family members who provided critical support to the athletes;

Whereas the United States takes great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and good will toward other competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams; and

Whereas the Olympic Movement celebrates competition, fair play, and the pursuit of dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the athletes and coaches of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and their families who support them;

(2) supports the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in their endeavors at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(3) thanks the members of the United States Olympics Committee and the National Governing Bodies for Sport for their unwavering support of the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams; and

(4) supports the goals and ideals of the Olympic Games.

SENATE RESOLUTION 544—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT OF RUSSIAN VIOLATIONS OF THE OPEN SKIES TREATY

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 544

Whereas the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002 (in this resolution referred to as the “Open Skies Treaty”), which established a regime for unarmed aerial observation flights over the entire territory of its participants, is one of the most wide-ranging international efforts to date to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities;

Whereas the United States Government has declared that strengthening and maintaining European security is a top priority for the United States, that the Open Skies Treaty is a key element of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture, and that arms control is a key part of that effort because robust multilateral conventional arms control arrangements contribute to a more stable and secure European continent;

Whereas, according to Secretary of State James Baker, addressing the Open Skies Conference in 1990, the end of the Cold War gave the Open Skies Treaty new importance

as a stabilizing factor in East-West relations, openness and transparency in military matters offered “the most direct path to greater predictability and reduced risk of inadvertent war,” and Open Skies Treaty was thus “potentially the most ambitious measure to build confidence ever undertaken”;

Whereas, according to the President’s letter of submittal for the Open Skies Treaty provided to Congress by the Secretary of State on August 12, 1992, it is the purpose of the Open Skies Treaty to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities and to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving States Party a direct role in gathering information about military forces and activities of concern to them;

Whereas, according to the Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments published by the Department of State on April 11, 2016 (in this resolution referred to as the “2016 Compliance Report”), the Russian Federation “continues not to meet its obligations [under the Open Skies Treaty] to allow effective observation of its entire territory, raising serious compliance concerns”;

Whereas, according to the 2016 Compliance Report, Russian conduct giving rise to compliance concerns has continued since the Open Skies Treaty entered into force in 2002 and worsened in 2010, 2014, and 2015; and

Whereas, according to the 2016 Compliance Report, ongoing efforts by the United States and other States Party to the Open Skies Treaty to address these concerns through dialogue with the Russian Federation “have not resolved any of the compliance concerns.”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) restrictions upon the ability of Open Skies Treaty aircraft to overfly all portions of the territory of a State Party impede openness and transparency of military forces and activities and undermine mutual understanding and confidence, especially when coupled with an ongoing refusal to address compliance concerns raised by other States Party subject to such restrictions;

(2) it is essential to the accomplishment of the purpose of the Open Skies Treaty that Open Skies Treaty aircraft be able to observe the entire territory of a State Party in a timely and reciprocal manner as provided for under the Open Skies Treaty;

(3) the Russian Federation’s restrictions upon the ability of Open Skies Treaty aircraft to overfly all portions of the territory of the Russian Federation constitute violations of the Open Skies Treaty; and

(4) for so long as the Russian Federation remains in noncompliance with the Open Skies Treaty, the United States should take such measures as are necessary to bring about the Russian Federation’s return to full compliance with its treaty obligations, including, as appropriate, through the imposition of restrictions upon Russian overflights of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 545—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 15, 2016, AS “LEIOMYOSARCOMA AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 545

Whereas a soft tissue sarcoma is a rare type of cancer, accounting for approximately 1 percent of newly diagnosed cancers;

Whereas Leiomyosarcoma (referred to in this preamble as "LMS") is a malignant subtype of soft tissue sarcoma that originates in smooth muscle, often in the walls of blood vessels;

Whereas LMS is highly aggressive and can be found throughout the body, but is especially concentrated in the uterus, abdominal cavity, and extremities;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health classifies LMS as a rare disease;

Whereas most oncologists will only see a few cases of LMS throughout a career;

Whereas the causes of LMS are still unknown;

Whereas LMS is largely resistant to standard chemotherapeutic agents, radiation treatment, and current immunotherapies;

Whereas multidisciplinary care coordination teams, because of their expertise and experience, are critical to the health of LMS patients;

Whereas LMS research will allow medical professionals to improve the quality of care for LMS patients, lead to better clinical outcomes, and promote longer survival for LMS patients; and

Whereas increased education and awareness about LMS will contribute to the well-being of the communities of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 15, 2016, as "Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes the challenges faced by Leiomyosarcoma patients; and

(3) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the country working to improve the quality of life of Leiomyosarcoma patients and the families of Leiomyosarcoma patients.

SENATE RESOLUTION 546—HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 546

Whereas before the enactment in 1916 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the "Act") and the United States Warehouse Act (7 U.S.C. 241 et seq.)—

(1) the grading, weighing, and warehousing of grain was regulated exclusively by States;

(2) there existed no uniform, nationwide system to inspect, weigh, and store grain; and

(3) each State enacted laws, standards, and regulations relating to the inspection, weighing, and storage of grain;

Whereas, on August 11, 1916, the 64th Congress passed the Act, which established national uniformity in grain standards;

Whereas, before 1916, foreign and domestic purchasers of grain were subject to practices that could result in a poor quality of grain, despite inspection certificates indicating higher grades, and farmers and others involved in the United States grain trade suffered as a result;

Whereas, in 1916, Congress established an official inspection and certification system that—

(1) made available official inspection and certification;

(2) prohibited conflicts of interest by personnel of the official inspection and certification system;

(3) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to use administrative sanctions to prevent corrupt practices; and

(4) established prohibitions on certain acts and penalties for violations;

Whereas, in 1976, Congress amended the Act to require official inspection and certification for grain exports and provide that any interested party may request official inspection and certification for any United States grain;

Whereas agricultural producers and purchasers benefitted from a system that generated certainty and confidence in the uniformity of inspection methods, weighing, and grading under rules and regulations protected by law;

Whereas, on October 21, 1976, Congress amended the Act to establish the Federal Grain Inspection Service to preserve the credibility and integrity of the United States grain market;

Whereas 2016 is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Grain Inspection Service to facilitate the marketing of United States grain commodities;

Whereas for 100 years the Act has supported a system of marketing for United States grain; and

Whereas, in 2016, the Act still provides certainty and transparency for United States agriculture and consumers involved in the international grain trade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the significance of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.); and

(2) finds that the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.) remains necessary to facilitate the movement of United States grain into the marketplace by providing agricultural producers, handlers, processors, exporters, and international buyers an internationally recognized standard in sampling, inspection, process verification, weighing, and stowage examination services that accurately and consistently describe the quality and quantity of grain commodities traded domestically and internationally.

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas forests, covering one-third of the land in the United States, provide clean air and drinking water, abundant wildlife habitats, recreation spaces, and renewable resources for buildings, furniture, energy, and paper needs, and also serve as an economic driver supporting well-paying jobs across the country;

Whereas most of the forests of the United States are owned by families and individuals who reside in and steward rural regions;

Whereas, in 1941, the American Tree Farm System (in this preamble referred to as the "ATFS") was founded to help family and individual woodland owners sustain forests and the benefits that the forests provide;

Whereas the ATFS is composed of more than 79,000 individuals and families, who together manage more than 20,500,000 acres of forest;

Whereas the ATFS remains a strong and essential program to conserve and manage the forests of the United States and the benefits forests provide, especially in the face of challenges like wildfires, invasive insects and diseases, and growing development pressures;

Whereas tree farmers invest time, manpower, and personal funds to practice sustainable forest management so that people across the United States can enjoy the benefits forests provide;

Whereas the ATFS is made possible by volunteers from local small woodlands associations, conservation organizations, State forestry agencies, forest products companies, and the Cooperative Extension System;

Whereas, to support family forests, family woodland owners, and continued voluntary conservation of working forests, it is important to expand the reach of ATFS to additional woodland owners; and

Whereas 14 States in the United States have approved similar resolutions recognizing the importance of the ATFS: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System;

(2) encourages the public to participate in activities that celebrate the anniversary and highlight the importance of this vital program, working family-owned forests, and the clean water, wildlife habitats, and wood supply that forests provide for all people in the United States; and

(3) supports conservation and management of the trees and forests of the United States through landowner participation in—

(A) the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.);

(B) the environmental quality incentives program established under chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.);

(C) the conservation stewardship program established under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3838d et seq.);

(D) the agricultural conservation easement program established under subtitle H of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.); and

(E) the forest stewardship program established under section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a).

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'S VIKING MISSION LANDING ON THE SURFACE OF MARS

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 548

Whereas Viking 1 launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on August 20, 1975;

Whereas Viking 1 spent nearly a year in space before it landed on the surface of Mars on July 20, 1976, on the western slope of the Chryse Planitia at 22.3 degrees north latitude and 48.0 degrees longitude;

Whereas the Viking 1 Lander was the first American spacecraft to land on Mars and the first spacecraft of any nation to successfully land on Mars and perform its mission;

Whereas the United States remains to this day the only nation to successfully land on the surface of Mars and transmit images back to Earth;

Whereas the Viking Mission produced over 4,500 photographs of the surface of Mars, including the first color images of the surface of Mars;

Whereas the Viking Mission produced the first scientific data from the surface of Mars; Whereas the Viking orbiters mapped 97 percent of the Martian surface;

Whereas the Viking 1 Lander continued its mission for 2,307 days;

Whereas the Viking Mission was NASA's first comprehensive mission to seek evidence that Mars could have the potential to support life, and it discovered that Mars has an environment modified by the interaction with water and complex surface chemistry;

Whereas the Viking Mission revolutionized our scientific understanding of the Red Planet, led to future exploration of Mars and the Solar System, and was one of the first stepping stones for the human exploration of Mars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the academic and industry contributors to the Viking Mission for leading the way in the exploration of Mars;

(2) recognizes the importance of the Viking Mission to the long-term exploration of the solar system by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and to the search for life beyond Earth;

(3) encourages the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue on the path to landing American astronauts on the surface of Mars; and

(4) encourages the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the American scientific community to continue to promote space exploration and scientific discovery across the solar system.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE ITALIAN SUPREME COURT OF CASSATION SHOULD DOMESTICATE AND RECOGNIZE JUDGMENTS ISSUED BY UNITED STATES COURTS ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF TERRORISM, AND THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD CEASE ITS POLITICAL INTERFERENCE WITH ITALY'S INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, WHICH IT CARRIES OUT IN THE INTERESTS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 48

Whereas, in 1996, Congress passed the Terrorism Exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to give United States citizens a private means of redress for injuries and deaths caused by state-sponsored acts of terrorism (originally codified at section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code and subsequently amended and re-codified at section 1605A of title 28, United States Code) (in this resolution referred to as the "Terrorism Exception");

Whereas the Terrorism Exception continues to be an important tool for the United States Government to protect the interests of its nationals, and to deter global terrorism;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld, United States students killed in Iran-sponsored

bombings, secured judgments against the Islamic Republic of Iran in United States Federal court for its role in those murders;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld attempted to enforce those United States judgments against Iranian assets held in Italy;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld initially domesticated their judgments in Italian court;

Whereas the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered appearances in subsequent proceedings on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, interfering with the domestication and successfully causing the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation (Italy's highest court of appeal) to overturn the Court of Appeals of Rome's judgment in favor of these United States terrorism victims (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Flatow, Cass., sez. un., 22 giugno 2007, n. 14570 (It.); Islamic Republic of Iran v. Eisenfeld, Cass., sez. un., 22 giugno 2007, n. 14571 (It.));

Whereas the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation condemned the Terrorism Exception—a crucial United States antiterrorism statute—as a violation of international law on the grounds that it gives United States citizens a remedy for acts of terrorism committed outside of the United States (Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran, Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21946 (It.); Eisenfeld v. Islamic Republic of Iran, Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21947 (It.));

Whereas the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation therefore refuses to recognize any judgments issued by United States courts under the Terrorism Exception (id.);

Whereas Congress will use every tool at its disposal to seek justice for United States citizens who are murdered in acts of terrorism, including attacks committed outside the United States; and

Whereas United States courts have applied the Terrorism Exception to bring justice to European Union victims of state-sponsored terrorism directed against United States nationals (see, e.g., Hurst v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 474 F. Supp. 2d 19 (D.D.C. 2007); Rein v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 995 F. Supp. 325 (E.D.N.Y. 1998)): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Italy has violated the principle of reciprocity governing the mutual recognition of domestic court awards between our two nations;

(2) the intervention by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Iran against victims of Iranian terrorism was initiated to the detriment of both United States and European Union terrorism victims; and

(3) the European Court of Human Rights should—

(A) overturn the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation's erroneous rulings in Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran (Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21946 (It.)) and Eisenfeld v. Islamic Republic of Iran (Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21947 (It.)); and

(B) order the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation to recognize the United States judgments held by the Flatow, Duker, and Eisenfeld families against Iran.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO STOP THE THEFT, ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR SALE, TRANSFER, AND EXPORT OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS OF INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 49

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the "Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution" or the "PROTECT Patrimony Resolution".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) **NATIVE AMERICAN.**—The term "Native American" means—

(A) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001));

(B) a member of an Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) a Native Hawaiian (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) **TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.**—The term "tribal cultural item" has the meaning given the term "cultural item" in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) is necessary to deter illegal trading in tribal cultural items.

(10) Many Indian tribes and tribal organizations have passed resolutions condemning the theft and sale of tribal cultural items, including the following:

(A) The National Congress of American Indians passed Resolutions SAC-12-008 and SD-15-075 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(i) to address international repatriation; and

(ii) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(B) The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representative of 20 Pueblo Indian tribes—

(i) noted that the Pueblo Indian tribes of the Southwestern United States have been disproportionately affected by the sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally in violation of Federal and tribal laws; and

(ii) passed Resolutions 2015-12 and 2015-13 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(I) to address international repatriation; and

(II) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(C) The United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization comprised of 26 federally recognized Indian tribes, passed Resolution 2015:007, which calls on the United States to address all means to support the repatriation of tribal cultural items from beyond United States borders.

(D) The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, uniting the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, passed Resolution 12-07, which requests that the United States, after consultation with Native Americans, assist in international repatriation and take immediate action to address repatriation.

SEC. 4. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items;

(2) calls on the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to consult with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, in addressing the practices described in paragraph (1)—

(A) to take affirmative action to stop the practices; and

(B) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to Native Americans;

(3) calls on the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) to conduct a study to determine the scope of illegal trafficking in tribal cultural items domestically and internationally; and

(B) to identify, in consultation with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, steps required—

(i) to end illegal trafficking in, and the export of, tribal cultural items; and

(ii) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans;

(4) supports the development of explicit restrictions on the export of tribal cultural items; and

(5) encourages State and local governments and interested groups and organizations to work cooperatively in—

(A) deterring the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items; and

(B) securing the repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50—PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 50

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in consonance with section 132(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, July 15, 2016, through Friday, September 2, 2016, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4974. Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4975. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2854, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

SA 4976. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2614, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

SA 4977. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 486, commemorating "Cruise Travel Professional Month" in October 2016.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4974. Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act

may be used to procure a Drug Enforcement Administration aircraft that is designated for use in Afghanistan unless—

(1) the Secretary of Defense submits a report to Congress on the use of such aircraft; and

(2) Congress does not adopt a joint resolution of disapproval of the report described in paragraph (1) during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which such report was submitted to Congress.

SA 4975. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2854, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) coordinate the sharing of information between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil rights community, and other entities;

"(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

"(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

"(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

"(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

"(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act') and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.";

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", and eligible entities"; and

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief shall, to the extent practicable, reopen and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"(4) TASK FORCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall establish a task force that includes representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice, State and local law enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to assist, as appropriate, with conducting a thorough investigation of, and to make recommendations to the Deputy Chief regarding, the cases involving violations described in paragraph (1).

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(I) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that occurred not later than December 31, 1969”;

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes, including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(i) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a description of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”; and

(ii) by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities in the investigation of violations described in section 4(b).”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F),

respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The term”; and

(E) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”; and

(7) by striking section 8.

SA 4976. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2614, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Kevin and Avonte’s Law of 2016”.

TITLE I—MISSING ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Missing Americans Alert Program Act of 2016”.

SEC. 102. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking “ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENT” and inserting “AMERICANS”; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) GRANT PROGRAM TO REDUCE INJURY AND DEATH OF MISSING AMERICANS WITH DEMENTIA AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

“(1) shall award grants to State and local law enforcement or public safety agencies to assist such agencies in designing, establishing, and operating locative tracking technology programs for individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, who have wandered from safe environments; and

“(2) shall award competitive grants to State and local law enforcement or public safety agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist such entities in planning, designing, establishing, or operating locally based, proactive programs to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments, including programs that—

“(A) provide prevention and response information, including online training resources, and referrals to families or guardians of such individuals who, due to their condition, wander from a safe environment;

“(B) provide education and training, including online training resources, to first re-

sponders, school personnel, clinicians, and the public in order to—

“(i) increase personal safety and survival skills for such individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments;

“(ii) facilitate the rescue and recovery of individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments; and

“(iii) recognize and respond to endangered missing individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments;

“(C) provide prevention and response training and emergency protocols for school administrators, staff, and families or guardians of individuals with dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, to help reduce the risk of wandering by such individuals; and

“(D) develop, operate, or enhance a notification or communications systems for alerts, advisories, or dissemination of other information for the recovery of missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or with developmental disabilities, such as autism.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “competitive” after “to receive a”;

(B) by inserting “agency or” before “organization” each place it appears; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice.”; and

(4) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall give preference to law enforcement or public safety agencies that partner with nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to individuals, and families of individuals, with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(e) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Attorney General under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

“(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give

priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this section during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of this paragraph and the grant programs under this part, the term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a grant under this part to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this section and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available to the Department of Justice under this section may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice, unless the head of the relevant agency or department, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have

been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

“(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued; and

“(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

“(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

“(f) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an applicant under this section, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.”

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the Missing Americans Alert Program, as amended by subsection (a), which shall address—

(1) the number of individuals who benefited from the Missing Americans Alert Program, including information such as the number of individuals who used tracking devices under the program, the number of people who were trained through the program, and the estimated number of people who were impacted by the program;

(2) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that applied for funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program;

(3) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that received funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program, including—

(A) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for training; and

(B) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for designing, establishing, or operating locative tracking technology;

(4) the companies, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each company, for which their locative tracking technology was used by State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies;

(5) the nonprofit organizations, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each organization, that State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies partnered with and the result of each partnership;

(6) the number of missing children with autism or another developmental disability with wandering tendencies or adults with Alzheimer's being served by the program who went missing and the result of the search for each such individual; and

(7) any recommendations for improving the Missing Americans Alert Program.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by striking the item relating to section 240001 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 240001. Missing Americans Alert Program.”

TITLE II—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

SEC. 201. ACTIVITIES BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Section 404(b)(1)(H) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(H)) is amended by inserting “, including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism” before the semicolon.

TITLE III—PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD.—The term “child” means an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(5) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “unit of local government” means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level.

SEC. 302. STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR USE OF TRACKING DEVICES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and leading research, advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations, shall establish standards and best practices relating to the use of tracking technology to locate individuals as described in subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the standards and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) determine—

(i) the criteria used to determine which individuals would benefit from the use of a tracking device;

(ii) who should have direct access to the tracking system; and

(iii) which types of tracking devices can be used in compliance with the standards and best practices; and

(B) establish standards and best practices the Attorney General determines are necessary to the administration of a tracking system, including procedures to—

(i) safeguard the privacy of the data used by the tracking device such that—

(I) access to the data is restricted to agencies determined necessary by the Attorney General; and

(II) use of the data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death;

(ii) establish criteria to determine whether use of the tracking device is the least restrictive alternative in order to prevent risk of injury or death before issuing the tracking

device, including the previous consideration of less restrictive alternatives;

(iii) provide training for law enforcement agencies to recognize signs of abuse during interactions with applicants for tracking devices;

(iv) protect the civil rights and liberties of the individuals who use tracking devices, including their rights under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(v) establish a complaint and investigation process to address—

(I) incidents of noncompliance by recipients of grants under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, with the best practices established by the Attorney General or other applicable law; and

(II) use of a tracking device over the objection of an individual; and

(vi) determine the role that State agencies should have in the administration of a tracking system.

(b) REQUIRED COMPLIANCE.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, shall comply with any standards and best practices relating to the use of tracking devices established by the Attorney General in accordance with subsection (a).

(2) **DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall determine whether an entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, acts in compliance with the requirement described in paragraph (1).

(c) **APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.**—The standards and best practices established by the Attorney General under subsection (a) shall apply only to the grant programs authorized under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

SA 4977. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 486, commemorating “Cruise Travel Professional Month” in October 2016; as follows:

Strike the first whereas clause.

In the second whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association supports” and insert “cruise travel professionals support”.

In the second whereas clause, strike “is” and insert “are”.

In the third whereas clause, strike “are members of Cruise Lines International Association and”.

In the seventh whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association and”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 14, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Evaluating the Financial Risks of China.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Iran Nuclear Agreement: One Year Later.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on July 14, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “ESSA Implementation: Perspectives from Education Stakeholders on Proposed Regulations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 14, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Searching for Capital: How Venture Capitalists and Angel Investors Fund Entrepreneurs and Startup Companies.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Stephen Dietz, a fellow in my office, be granted floor

privileges for the duration of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 114-187, and in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals as members of the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: the Honorable ORRIN HATCH of Utah (Finance) and the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida (Energy and Natural Resources).

The Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the reappointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Jill Derby of Nevada.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress: Joanna Hess of New Mexico.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today’s Executive Calendar: Nos. 11 and 12 en bloc; I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that the President be notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The treaties will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 114-10, Extradition Treaty with the Dominican Republic.

Treaty document No. 113-6, Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Chile.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document Nos. 114–10 and 113–6, Senators in favor of the resolutions of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to en bloc.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Dominican Republic, signed at Santo Domingo on January 12, 2015 (Treaty Doc. 114–10), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile, signed at Washington on June 5, 2013 (Treaty Doc. 113–6), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Calendar Nos. 209, 472, 679 through 684, and 595; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Julius Lloyd Horwich, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education; Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Ann Hall, of Maine, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lithuania; Lawrence Robert Silverman of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Am-

bassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait; Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile; Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece; Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq; Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine; and Blair Anderson, of California, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Horwich, Darling, Hall, Silverman, Perez, Pyatt, Silliman, Yovanovitch, and Anderson nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3282, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3282) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 3282) was passed, as follows:

S. 3282

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b) (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

(b) PLACEMENTS IN CONGRESS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by striking “A fellowship” and inserting the following:

“(2) PLACEMENT PRIORITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In each year in which the Secretary awards a legislative fellowship under this subsection, when considering the placement of fellows, the Secretary shall prioritize placement of fellows in the following:

“(i) Positions in offices of, or with members on, committees of Congress that have jurisdiction over the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(ii) Positions in offices of members of Congress that have a demonstrated interest in ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources.

“(B) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In placing fellows in offices described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum degree practicable, that placements are equitably distributed among the political parties.

“(3) DURATION.—A fellowship”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply with respect to the first calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING FEDERAL HIRING OF FORMER FELLOWS.—It is the sense of Congress that in recognition of the competitive nature of the fellowship under section 208(b) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)), and of the exceptional qualifications of fellowship awardees, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, should encourage participating Federal agencies to consider opportunities for fellowship awardees at the conclusion of their fellowship for workforce positions appropriate for their education and experience.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(c)(4)(E) (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

“(E) accept donations of money and, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, of voluntary and uncompensated services;”.

(b) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary

of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall establish priorities for the use of donations accepted under section 204(c)(4)(E) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(E)), and shall consider among those priorities the possibility of expanding the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship's placement of additional fellows in relevant legislative offices under section 208(b) of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)), in accordance with the recommendations under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, in consultation with the National Sea Grant Advisory Board and the Sea Grant Association, shall—

(1) develop recommendations for the optimal use of any donations accepted under section 204(c)(4)(E) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(E)); and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the recommendations developed under paragraph (1).

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect any other amounts available for marine policy fellowships under section 208(b) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)), including amounts—

(1) accepted under section 204(c)(4)(F) of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(4)(F)); or

(2) appropriated under section 212 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1131).

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT ON COORDINATION OF OCEANS AND COASTAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Section 9 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 857–20) is repealed.

SEC. 6. REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD REPORT.

Section 209(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “BIENNIAL” and inserting “PERIODIC”; and

(2) in the first sentence, by striking “The Board shall report to the Congress every two years” and inserting “Not less frequently than once every 3 years, the Board shall submit to Congress a report”.

SEC. 7. MODIFICATION OF ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Section 204(b) (33 U.S.C. 1123(b)) is amended, in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting “for research, education, extension, training, technology transfer, and public service” after “financial assistance”.

SEC. 8. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY; DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year 2016 and thereafter, the head of any Federal agency may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a qualified candidate described in subsection (b) directly to a position with the Federal agency for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

(b) DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to a former recipient of a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship under section 208(b) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)) who—

(1) earned a graduate or post-graduate degree in a field related to ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources or policy from an accredited institution of higher education; and

(2) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the fellowship within the executive or legislative branch of the United States Government.

(c) LIMITATION.—The direct hire authority under this section shall be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate not later than 2 years after the date that the candidate completed the fellowship.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212(a) (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title—

“(A) \$75,600,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(B) \$79,380,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(C) \$83,350,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(D) \$87,520,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(E) \$91,900,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

“(F) \$96,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 THROUGH 2021.—In addition to the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 for competitive grants for the following:

“(A) University research on the biology, prevention, and control of aquatic nonnative species.

“(B) University research on oyster diseases, oyster restoration, and oyster-related human health risks.

“(C) University research on the biology, prevention, and forecasting of harmful algal blooms.

“(D) University research, education, training, and extension services and activities focused on coastal resilience and U.S. working waterfronts and other regional or national priority issues identified in the strategic plan under section 204(c)(1).

“(E) University research on sustainable aquaculture techniques and technologies.

“(F) Fishery extension activities conducted by sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes to enhance, and not supplant, existing core program funding.”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNTS FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 212(b) (33 U.S.C. 1131(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There may not be used for administration of programs under this title in a fiscal year more than 5.5 percent of the lesser of—

“(i) the amount authorized to be appropriated under this title for the fiscal year; or

“(ii) the amount appropriated under this title for the fiscal year.

“(B) CRITICAL STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall use the authority under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, to meet any critical staffing requirement while carrying out the activities authorized in this title.

“(ii) EXCEPTION FROM CAP.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), any costs incurred as a result of an exercise of authority as described in clause (i) shall not be considered an amount used for administration of programs under this title in a fiscal year.”.

(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(d)(3) (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)) is amended—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “With respect to sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes” and inserting “With respect to sea grant colleges, sea grant institutes, sea grant programs, and sea grant projects”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter before clause (i), by striking “funding among sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes” and inserting “funding among sea grant col-

leges, sea grant institutes, sea grant programs, and sea grant projects”.

(2) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.—Section 212 (33 U.S.C. 1131) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 10. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

The National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 204(d)(3)(B) (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)(B)), by moving clause (vi) two ems to the right; and

(2) in section 209(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)(2)), as amended by section 6, in the third sentence, by striking “The Secretary shall” and inserting the following:

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2854 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2854) to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the Senate's passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act, bipartisan legislation that I introduced in April with Congressman JOHN LEWIS. We were joined in this effort by Senators LEAHY, MCCASKILL and BLUNT, as well as Representative JIM SENSENBRENNER.

The goal of this legislation is simple and noble: to bring truth to light and bring justice to the victims of racially motivated murders.

The original bill was championed by Representative LEWIS and civil rights activist and cold case researcher Alvin Sykes in 2007, and it aimed to ensure that those who had quite literally gotten away with murder during the civil rights era were prosecuted under the law.

And recognizing that while many of these civil rights era cases can't be prosecuted due to legal challenges, the investigation of these cold cases is important to revealing the truth about the injustices committed against African-Americans and the failure of the legal system to protect them. Uncovering and confronting this dark part of our nation's history is invaluable to strengthening our rule of law.

Mr. President, it was important to pass this bill today because on August 28—a day that will arrive during the Congressional recess—the Till family and others in the civil rights community will remember the murder of Emmett Till. As my colleagues know, Emmett Till was a 14-year-old-boy from Chicago who was brutally murdered in Mississippi in 1955 after whistling at a white woman.

The two individuals who were charged with the murder of Emmett Till were tried. But after only a 67-minute deliberation of the jury, the two men were acquitted of capital murder. Both men later confessed to the murder to a reporter, but under our Constitution, these individuals could not be retried.

Had Emmett Till not been murdered, his family would have been celebrating his 75th birthday this month instead of remembering his death next month.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once said that “the time is always right to do what is right.” We can’t bring Emmett Till back, but we can honor his legacy and do what is right by uncovering these unimaginable wrongs.

Under the original Emmett Till Act, the Department of Justice and FBI have investigated 105 of 113 cold cases involving 126 victims. There has been one successful prosecution at the State level since the passage of this law, in which a former police officer plead guilty for manslaughter in the death of a civil rights activist.

Yet there is growing evidence gathered by activists, lawyers, and researchers that more unsolved murders exist, and the mandate of the original law is not yet complete. For example, in 2012, the Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University submitted 196 names of victims of racially suspicious cases to the DOJ that warrant review. To my knowledge, these names have not been investigated.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Right Crimes Reauthorization Act would enable the Department of Justice and FBI to carry on the critical mission of investigating unsolved murders, and when possible, securing justice through our legal system.

It would enable them to investigate a broader time span of crimes than the original bill, recognizing that racially motivated violence did not end in 1969.

And it would provide for increased collaboration among the federal government, State and local officials, and cold case researchers, to ensure a full array of resources are dedicated to this end.

Many of these crimes may not be able to be prosecuted due to statutes of limitations, the death of witnesses, or other legal issues. But even if these investigations do not lead to prosecutions, giving these families the real truth about what happened to their loved ones is not only important to them as they cope with their grief, it is also important for understanding our

history, ensuring the rule of law, and sending the message to future generations that every single American is worthy of the protections of our laws.

In Letter from Birmingham Jail, Dr. King wrote that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.” For many victims, full justice will never be realized because justice has been delayed too long. It is the purpose of this bill to ensure that justice is not delayed any longer, and it is my hope that the House of Representatives will soon pass this bill and the President will sign it into law.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Burr substitute amendment be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4975) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) coordinate the sharing of information between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil rights community, and other entities;

“(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

“(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

“(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

“(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

“(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.”;

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”; and

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief shall, to the extent practicable, reopen

and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(4) TASK FORCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall establish a task force that includes representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice, State and local law enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to assist, as appropriate, with conducting a thorough investigation of, and to make recommendations to the Deputy Chief regarding, the cases involving violations described in paragraph (1).

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that occurred not later than December 31, 1969”; and

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes, including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a description of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year”; and

(ii) by striking “occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities in the investigation of violations described in section 4(b).”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’**” and inserting “**DEFINITIONS**”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) **CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES**.—The term”;

and

(E) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY**.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”; and

(7) by striking section 8.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2854), as amended, was passed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEVIN AND AVONTE’S LAW OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 423, S. 2614.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2614) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley-Schumer substitute amendment be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4976) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI: I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2614), as amended, was passed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3283, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3283) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the “PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3283) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3283

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC IN PUEBLO, COLORADO.

(a) **DESIGNATION**.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “PFC James Dunn VA Clinic”.

(b) **REFERENCES**.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3700 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the

motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3700) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.R. 5722, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5722) to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5722) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMEMORATING “CRUISE TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL MONTH” IN OCTOBER 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 486.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 486) commemorating “Cruise Travel Professional Month” in October 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the Rubio amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 486) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4977) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the first whereas clause.

In the second whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association supporters” and insert “cruise travel professionals support”.

In the second whereas clause, strike “is” and insert “are”.

In the third whereas clause, strike “are members of Cruise Lines International Association and”.

In the seventh whereas clause, strike “Cruise Lines International Association and”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 486

Whereas cruise travel professionals support policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy, and sustainable cruise ship environment and are dedicated to promoting the cruise travel experience;

Whereas approximately 10,000 travel agencies and 19,000 individual cruise travel professionals participate in ongoing professional development and training programs to build cruise industry knowledge;

Whereas cruise travel professionals deliver value to consumers by providing advice on choosing the best cruise based on the budgets and interests of the customers and taking the worry out of vacation planning by arranging the details of vacations;

Whereas cruise passengers have consistently ranked cruise travel professionals as the most helpful sources of information and service among all distribution channels used for purchasing cruises;

Whereas 70 percent of cruise passengers from the United States use a cruise travel professional to plan and book a cruise vacation;

Whereas cruise travel professionals across the world celebrate and promote October as “Plan a Cruise Month”;

Whereas the United States has the most cruise passengers in the world, with almost 11,500,000 cruise passengers in 2014;

Whereas the cruise industry in the United States generated 375,000 jobs across all 50 States in 2014; and

Whereas, in 2014, the cruise industry spent \$21,000,000,000 directly with United States businesses and generated \$46,000,000,000 in gross outputs due to the spending of cruise lines and the crew and passengers of cruise lines, including indirect economic impacts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the inaugural “Cruise Travel Professional Month” in October 2016;

(2) acknowledges the creativity and professionalism of the men and women of the cruise travel professional community; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe “Cruise Travel Professional Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN-LOONG TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 565, S. Res. 515.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 515) welcoming Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong to the United States and reaffirming Singapore's strategic partnership with the United States, encompassing broad and robust economic, military-to-military, law enforcement, and counterterrorism cooperation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 515) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 29, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE PESHMERGA OF THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 566, S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 41) expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the concurrent resolution intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the concurrent resolution intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. CON. RES. 41

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been one of the most effective fighting forces in the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS);

(2) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham poses an acute threat to the Iraqi people and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the security and stability of the Middle East;

(3) the severe budget shortfalls faced by both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government are hindering the stability of Iraq and have the potential to undermine long-term efforts to bring about the sustainable defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(4) the \$415,000,000 pledged by the United States Government to the Kurdish Peshmerga in April of 2016, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, in addition to the \$65,000,000 already provided from the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, should remain a priority for the United States as part of the continued support for Iraqi Security Forces, including the Peshmerga, in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

[(5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;]

(5) *the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, by, with, and through the Government of Iraq, agrees to*

provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;

(6) *it should be the policy of the United States to support, within the framework of the Iraq Constitution, Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish Peshmerga in Iraq, Sunni tribal forces, and other local security forces, including threatened ethnic and religious minority groups, in the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;*

(7) *ensuring the safe resettlement and reintegration of ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians (among them Assyrian, Chaldean, Syriac, Armenian, Evangelical, Antiochian and Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Melkite, and Roman Catholic communities), Yezidis, Turkmen, Shi'a, Shabak, Sabaeen-Mandeans, and Kaka'i, among others, including victims of genocide, into their homelands in Iraq, including the Ninevah Plain, is a critical component toward achieving a safe, secure, and sovereign Iraq;*

[(6)] (8) the Peshmerga require equipment that will allow them to defend themselves and their coalition advisers against the increased use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

[(7)] (9) the Peshmerga are vital partners in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham; and

[(8)] (10) in coordination with the Government of Iraq, the United States will endeavor to increase assistance to Iraqi Kurdish Forces to enhance their combat medicine and logistical capabilities, to defend internally displaced persons and refugees, and to defend the Peshmerga and their coalition advisers.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 41), as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 41

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been one of the most effective fighting forces in the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS);

(2) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham poses an acute threat to the Iraqi people and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the security and stability of the Middle East;

(3) the severe budget shortfalls faced by both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government are hindering the stability of Iraq and have the potential to undermine long-term efforts to bring about the sustainable defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(4) the \$415,000,000 pledged by the United States Government to the Kurdish Peshmerga in April of 2016, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, in addition to the \$65,000,000 already provided from the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, should remain a priority for the United States as part of the continued support for Iraqi Security Forces, including the Peshmerga, in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, by, with, and through the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;

(6) it should be the policy of the United States to support, within the framework of the Iraq Constitution, Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish Peshmerga in Iraq, Sunni tribal forces, and other local security forces, including threatened ethnic and religious minority groups, in the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(7) ensuring the safe resettlement and reintegration of ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians (among them Assyrian, Chaldean, Syriac, Armenian, Evangelical, Antiochian and Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Melkite, and Roman Catholic communities), Yezidis, Turkmen, Shi'a, Shabak, Sabaeen-Mandeans, and Kaka'i, among others, including victims of genocide, into their homelands in Iraq, including the Ninevah Plain, is a critical component toward achieving a safe, secure, and sovereign Iraq;

(8) the Peshmerga require equipment that will allow them to defend themselves and their coalition advisers against the increased use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(9) the Peshmerga are vital partners in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham; and

(10) in coordination with the Government of Iraq, the United States will endeavor to increase assistance to Iraqi Kurdish Forces to enhance their combat medicine and logistical capabilities, to defend internally displaced persons and refugees, and to defend the Peshmerga and their coalition advisers.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOAL OF ENSURING THAT ALL HOLOCAUST VICTIMS LIVE WITH DIGNITY, COMFORT, AND SECURITY IN THEIR REMAINING YEARS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 568, S. Con. Res. 46.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46) expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 12, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE BID OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TO BRING THE 2024 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES BACK TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 142, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) supporting the bid of Los Angeles, California, to bring the 2024 Summer Olympic Games back to the United States and pledging the cooperation of Congress with respect to that bid.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

INDIAN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND RELATED SERVICES CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 385, S. 1443.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1443) to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1443) was passed, as follows:

S. 1443

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SHORT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 note; 106 Stat. 2302) is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

"This Act may be cited as the 'Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992'."

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in law to the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992" shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992".

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 2 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401) is amended—

(1) by striking "The purposes of this Act are to demonstrate how Indian tribal governments can" and inserting "The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to";

(2) by inserting "from diverse Federal sources" after "they provide";

(3) by striking "and serve tribally-determined" and inserting ", and serve tribally determined"; and

(4) by inserting ", while reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs" after "policy of self-determination".

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms 'Indian tribe' and 'tribe' have the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

"(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'Indian tribe' includes tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b));

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means a program described in section 5(a)."

SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

Section 4 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3403) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

"The Secretary shall, after approving a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 8, authorize the Indian tribe to, in accordance with the plan—

"(1) integrate the programs and Federal funds received by the Indian tribe; and

"(2) coordinate the employment, training, and related services provided with those funds in a consolidated and comprehensive tribal plan."

SEC. 6. PROGRAMS AFFECTED AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 5 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3404) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. PROGRAMS AFFECTED.

“(a) PROGRAMS AFFECTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The programs that may be integrated pursuant to a plan approved under section 8 shall be only programs—

“(A) implemented for the purpose of—

“(i) job training;

“(ii) welfare to work and tribal work experience;

“(iii) creating or enhancing employment opportunities;

“(iv) higher education;

“(v) skill development;

“(vi) assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce;

“(vii) encouraging self-sufficiency;

“(viii) familiarizing individual participants with the world of work;

“(ix) facilitating the creation of job opportunities;

“(x) economic development; or

“(xi) any services related to the activities described in clauses (i) through (x); and

“(B) under which an Indian tribe or members of an Indian tribe—

“(i) are eligible to receive funds—

“(I) under a statutory or administrative formula making funds available to an Indian tribe; or

“(II) due to their status as Indians under Federal law; or

“(ii) have secured funds as a result of a competitive process, a noncompetitive process, or a specific designation.

“(2) TREATMENT OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.—For purposes of this section, programs funded by block grant funds provided to an Indian tribe, regardless of whether the block grant is for the benefit of the Indian tribe because of the status of the Indian tribe or the status of the beneficiaries the grant serves, shall be eligible to be integrated into the plan.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the Secretary approves a plan submitted by an Indian tribe or tribal organization under section 8, authorize the Indian tribe or tribal organization, as applicable, to coordinate, in accordance with the plan, federally funded employment, training, and related services programs and funding in a manner that integrates the programs and funding into a consolidated and comprehensive program.”

SEC. 7. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

Section 6 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3405) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

“A plan submitted to the Secretary for approval under this Act shall—

“(1) identify the programs to be integrated and consolidated;

“(2) be consistent with the purposes of this Act;

“(3) describe—

“(A) a comprehensive strategy identifying the full range of potential employment opportunities on and near the service area of the Indian tribe;

“(B) the education, training, and related services to be provided to assist Indians to access those employment opportunities;

“(C) the way in which services and program funds are to be integrated, consolidated, and delivered; and

“(D) the results expected from the plan;

“(4) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget covering all consolidated funds;

“(5) identify any agency of the Indian tribe to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan;

“(6) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the Indian tribe believes need to be waived to implement the plan; and

“(7) be approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.”

SEC. 8. PLAN REVIEW; WAIVER AUTHORITY; AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Section 7 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3406) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a plan from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall consult with—

“(1) the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan; and

“(2) the Indian tribe that submitted the plan.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.—The parties identified in subsection (a) shall identify any waivers of applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements, or of Federal agency policies or procedures necessary to enable the Indian tribe to efficiently implement the plan.

“(c) TRIBAL WAIVER REQUEST.—In consultation with the Secretary, a participating Indian tribe may request that the head of each affected agency waive any statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, policy, or procedure identified subsection (b).

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of each affected Federal agency shall waive any applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, regulation, policy, or procedure promulgated by the agency that has been identified by the parties under subparagraph (b).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The head of an affected Federal agency shall not grant a waiver under paragraph (1) if the head of the affected agency determines that a waiver will be inconsistent with—

“(A) the purposes of this Act; or

“(B) the provision of law from which the program included in the plan derives its authority that is specifically applicable to Indians.

“(e) DECISION ON WAIVER REQUEST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the head of an affected agency receives a waiver request, the head of the affected agency shall decide whether to grant or deny the request.

“(2) DENIAL OF REQUEST.—If the head of the affected agency denies a waiver request, not later than 30 days after the date on which the denial is made, the head of the affected agency shall provide the requesting Indian tribe and the Secretary with written notice of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

“(3) FAILURE TO ACT ON REQUEST.—If the head of an affected agency does not make a decision under paragraph (1) by the deadline identified in that paragraph, the request shall be considered to be granted.

“(f) SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—If the head of an affected agency denies a waiver request under subsection (e)(2), not later than 30 days after the date on which the request is denied, the Secretary shall review the denial and determine whether granting the waiver—

“(1) will be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; or

“(2) will prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act.

“(g) INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines that granting the waiver will not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and will not prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act, the Secretary shall establish and initiate an interagency dispute resolution process involving—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the participating Indian tribe; and

“(C) the head of the affected agency.

“(2) DURATION.—A dispute subject to paragraph (1) shall be resolved not later than 30 days after the date on which the process is initiated.

“(h) FINAL AUTHORITY.—If the dispute resolution process fails to resolve the dispute between a participating Indian tribe and an affected agency, the head of the affected agency shall have the final authority to resolve the dispute.

“(i) FINAL DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the dispute is resolved under this section, the Secretary shall provide the requesting Indian tribe with—

“(1) the final decision on the waiver request; and

“(2) notice of the right to file an appeal in accordance with the applicable provisions described in section 8(d).”

SEC. 9. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

Section 8 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3407) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 6.

“(b) APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a plan, the Secretary shall approve or deny the plan.

“(2) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary approves a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall authorize the transfer of program funds identified in the plan in accordance with section 13.

“(3) DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a written notification of disapproval of the plan that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that the plan does not meet the requirements described in section 6.

“(4) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan is denied under paragraph (3) solely on the basis that a request for a waiver that is part of the plan has not been approved (or is subject to dispute resolution) under section 7, the Secretary shall, upon a request from the tribe, grant partial approval for those portions of the plan not affected by the request for a waiver.

“(B) APPROVAL AFTER RESOLUTION.—With respect to a plan described in subparagraph (A), on resolution of the request for a waiver under section 7, the Secretary shall, on a request from the tribe, approve the plan or amended plan not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the request.

“(5) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary does not make a decision under paragraph (1) within 90 days of the date on which the Secretary receives the plan, the plan shall be considered to be approved.

“(c) EXTENSION OF TIME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may extend or otherwise alter the 90-day period identified in subsection (b)(1) for not

more than 90 additional days, if, before the expiration of the period, the Secretary obtains the express written consent of the Indian tribe.

“(d) REVIEW OF DENIAL.—

“(1) PROCEDURE UPON REFUSAL TO APPROVE PLAN.—If the Secretary denies a plan under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall—

“(A) state any objections in writing to the Indian tribe;

“(B) provide assistance to the Indian tribe to overcome the stated objections; and

“(C) unless the Indian tribe brings a civil action under paragraph (2), provide the Indian tribe with a hearing on the record with the right to engage in full discovery relevant to any issue raised in the matter and the opportunity for appeal on the objections raised, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may promulgate.

“(2) CIVIL ACTIONS; CONCURRENT JURISDICTION; RELIEF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction of a civil action or claim against the appropriate Secretary arising under this section and over any civil action or claim against the Secretary for money damages arising under contracts authorized by this section.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND APPEAL NOT REQUIRED.—An Indian tribe may bring a civil action or claim under this paragraph without regard to whether the Indian tribe had a hearing or filed an appeal under paragraph (1).

“(C) RELIEF.—In an action brought under this paragraph, the court may order appropriate relief, including—

“(i) money damages;

“(ii) injunctive relief against any action by an officer or employee of the United States or any agency thereof contrary to this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder (including immediate injunctive relief to reverse a denial of a plan under this section or to compel the Secretary to approve a plan); and

“(iii) a writ of mandamus to compel an officer or employee of the United States, or any agency thereof, to perform a duty provided under this Act or regulations promulgated hereunder.

“(3) BURDEN OF PROOF AT HEARING OR APPEAL DECLINING CONTRACT; FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any hearing or appeal conducted under paragraph (1)(C) or any civil action brought under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the validity of the grounds for denying approval of a plan (or portion thereof).

“(B) AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a decision by an official of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (collectively referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Department’) that constitutes final agency action and that relates to an appeal within the Department that is conducted under paragraph (1)(C) shall be made—

“(i) by an official of the Department who holds a position at a higher organizational level within the Department than the level of the departmental agency (such as the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian Affairs) in which the decision that is the subject of the appeal was made; or

“(ii) by an administrative judge.

“(4) APPLICATION OF LAWS TO ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, shall apply to any administrative appeals pending on or filed after October 5, 1988, by an Indian tribe regarding a plan under this Act.”.

SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

Section 10 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3409) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act may use the funds made available for the plan under this Act—

“(1) to place participants in training positions with employers; and

“(2) to pay the participants a training allowance or wage for a training period of not more than 24 months, which may be non-consecutive.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An Indian tribe may carry out subsection (a) only if the Indian tribe enters into a written agreement with each applicable employer under which the employer shall agree—

“(1) to provide on-the-job training to the participants; and

“(2) on satisfactory completion of the training period described in subsection (a)(2), to prioritize the provision of permanent employment to the participants.”.

SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 11 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3410) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the lead agency responsible for implementation of this Act shall be the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in carrying out this Act shall include—

“(A) the development of a single model report for each Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act to submit to the Director reports on any consolidated activities undertaken and joint expenditures made under the plan;

“(B) the provision, directly or through contract, of appropriate voluntary and technical assistance to participating Indian tribes;

“(C) the development and use of a single monitoring and oversight system for plans approved under this Act;

“(D)(i) the receipt of all funds covered by a plan approved under this Act; and

“(ii) the distribution of the funds to the respective Indian tribes by not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the funds from the appropriate Federal department or agency; and

“(E)(i) the performance of activities described in section 7 relating to agency waivers; and

“(ii) the establishment of an interagency dispute resolution process.

“(3) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2014, the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), in conjunction with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General, shall enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation of this Act.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The memorandum of agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include provisions relating to—

“(i) an annual meeting of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies, to be co-chaired by—

“(I) a representative of the President; and

“(II) a representative of the participating Indian tribes;

“(ii) an annual review of the achievements under this Act and any statutory, regulatory, administrative, or policy obstacles that prevent participating Indian tribes from fully and efficiently carrying out the purposes of this Act; and

“(iii) a forum comprised of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies to identify and resolve interagency conflicts and conflicts between the Federal Government and Indian tribes in the administration of this Act.

“(b) REPORT FORMAT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall develop and distribute to Indian tribes that have in place an approved plan under this Act a single report format, in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The lead agency shall ensure that the report format developed under paragraph (1), together with records maintained by each participating Indian tribe, contains information sufficient—

“(A) to determine whether the Indian tribe has complied with the requirements of the approved plan of the Indian tribe; and

“(B) to provide assurances to the head of each applicable Federal department or agency that the Indian tribe has complied with all directly applicable statutory and regulatory requirements not waived under section 7.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The report format developed under paragraph (1) shall not require a participating Indian tribe to report on the expenditure of funds (expressed by fund source or single agency code) transferred to the Indian tribe under an approved plan under this Act.”.

SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

Section 12 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3411) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In no case shall the amount of Federal funds available to an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act be reduced as a result of—

“(1) the enactment of this Act; or

“(2) the approval or implementation of a plan of an Indian tribe under this Act.

“(b) INTERACTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The inclusion of a program in a tribal plan under this Act shall not—

“(1) modify, limit, or otherwise affect the eligibility of the program for contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); or

“(2) eliminate the applicability of any provision of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), as the provision relates to a specific program eligible for contracting under that Act.”.

SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 13 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3412) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of apportionment to the applicable Federal department or agency, the head of a Federal agency overseeing a program identified in a plan approved under this Act shall transfer to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for distribution to an Indian tribe any funds identified in the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the request of the Indian tribe, all program funds transferred to an Indian tribe in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe shall be transferred to the Indian tribe pursuant to an existing contract, compact, or

funding agreement awarded pursuant to title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”.

SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

Section 14 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3413) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) CONSOLIDATION AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts transferred to a tribe pursuant to an approved plan may be consolidated, reallocated, and rebudgeted as specified in the approved plan to best meet the employment, training, and related needs of the local community served by the Indian tribe.

“(B) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts used to carry out a plan approved under this Act shall be administered in such manner as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the amounts are spent on activities authorized under the approved plan.

“(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section interferes with the ability of the Secretary or the lead agency to use accounting procedures that conform to generally accepted accounting principles, auditing procedures, and safeguarding of funds that conform to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Single Audit Act of 1984’).

“(2) SEPARATE RECORDS AND AUDITS NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations and circulars of any agency (including Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133)), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act shall not be required—

“(A) to maintain separate records that trace any service or activity conducted under the approved plan to the program for which the funds were initially authorized or transferred;

“(B) to allocate expenditures among such a program; or

“(C) to audit expenditures by the original source of the program.

“(b) CARRYOVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act that are not obligated or expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated shall remain available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation, subject to the condition that the funds shall be obligated or expended in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(2) NO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—The Indian tribe shall not be required to provide any additional justification or documentation of the purposes of the approved plan as a condition of receiving or expending the funds.

“(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Indian tribe shall be entitled to recover 100 percent of any indirect costs incurred by the Indian tribe as a result of the transfer of funds to the Indian tribe under this Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “All administrative” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”; and

(B) by striking “regulations”)” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “regulations).

“(2) TREATMENT.—The amount equal to the difference between the amount of the commingled funds and the actual administrative cost of the programs, as described in paragraph (1), shall be considered to be properly spent for Federal audit purposes if the amount is used to achieve the purposes of this Act.

“(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act shall be treated as non-Federal funds for purposes of meeting matching requirements under any other Federal law.

“(f) CLAIMS.—The following provisions of law shall apply to plans approved under this Act:

“(1) Section 314 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-512; 104 Stat. 1959).

“(2) Chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’).

“(g) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be entitled to retain interest earned on any funds transferred to the tribe under an approved plan and such interest shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian tribe is authorized to receive under the plan in the year the interest is earned or in any subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) PRUDENT INVESTMENT.—Funds transferred under a plan shall be managed in accordance with the prudent investment standard.”.

SEC. 15. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON INDIAN WORK FORCE.

Section 17(a) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416(a)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “manner,” and inserting “The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, Indian tribes, and the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall”; and

(2) by striking “, by gender,”.

SEC. 16. REPEALS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEALS.—Sections 15 and 16 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3414, 3415) are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416, 3417) (as amended by this Act) are redesignated as sections 15 and 16, respectively.

SEC. 17. EFFECT OF ACT.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act—

(1) affects any plan approved under the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.) (as so redesignated) before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) requires any Indian tribe or tribal organization to resubmit a plan described in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies the effective period of any plan described in paragraph (1).

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 403, S. 818.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 818) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL LAND FOR GRAND RONDE RESERVATION.

Section 1 of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the “Grand Ronde Reservation Act”) (25 U.S.C. 713f note; 102 Stat. 1594; 104 Stat. 207; 108 Stat. 708; 108 Stat. 4566; 112 Stat. 1896), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “Subject to valid existing rights, including (but not limited to) all” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including all”; and

(ii) by inserting “(referred to in this Act as the ‘Tribes’)” before the period at the end;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Such land” and inserting the following:

“(2) TREATMENT.—The land referred to in paragraph (1)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept title in and to any additional real property located within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes (as established by the Executive order dated June 30, 1857, and comprised of land within the political boundaries of Polk and Yamhill Counties, Oregon), if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or on behalf of, the Tribes.

“(B) TREATMENT OF TRUST LAND.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An application to take land into trust within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes shall be treated by the Secretary as an on-reservation trust acquisition.

“(ii) GAMING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), real property taken into trust pursuant to this paragraph shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply to any real property located within 2 miles of the gaming facility in existence on the date of enactment of this paragraph located on State Highway 18 in the Grand Ronde community, Oregon.

“(C) RESERVATION.—All real property taken into trust within the boundaries described in subparagraph (A) at any time after September 9, 1988, shall be considered to be a part of the reservation of the Tribes.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding the table, by striking “in subsection (a) are approximately 10,311.60” and inserting “in subsection (a)(1) are the approximately 11,349.92”; and

(B) by striking the table and inserting the following:

"South	West	Section	Subdivision	Acres
4	8	36	SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	40
4	7	31	Lots 1,2, NE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄	320.89
5	7	6	All	634.02
5	7	7	All	638.99
5	7	18	Lots 1 & 2, NE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄	320.07
5	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄	160
5	8	3	All	635.60
5	8	7	All	661.75
5	8	8	All	640
5	8	9	All	640
5	8	10	All	640
5	8	11	All	640
5	8	12	All	640
5	8	13	All	640
5	8	14	All	640
5	8	15	All	640
5	8	16	All	640
5	8	17	All	640
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	53.78
6	8	1	S ¹ / ₂ E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	10.03
6	7	7, 8, 17, 18	Former tax lot 800, located within the SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 7; SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 8; NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 17; and NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 18	5.55
4	7	30	Lots 3,4, SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄	241.06
6	8	1	N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄	29.59
6	8	12	W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	21.70
6	8	13	W ¹ / ₂ E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	5.31
6	7	7	E ¹ / ₂ E ¹ / ₂	57.60
6	7	8	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄	22.46
6	7	17	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	10.84
6	7	18	E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄	43.42
6	8	1	W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	20.6
6	8	1	N ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	19.99
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	9.99
6	8	1	NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	10.46
6	8	1	NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	12.99
6	7	6	SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	37.39
6	7	5	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	24.87
6	7	5, 8	SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 5; and NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 8	109.9
6	8	1	NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	31.32
6	8	1	NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	8.89
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	78.4
6	7	8, 17	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 8; and NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 17	14.33
6	7	17	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	6.68
6	8	12	SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	8.19
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	2.0
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	5.05
6	8	12	SE ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄	54.64
6	7	17, 18	SW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 17; and SE ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 18	136.83
6	8	1	SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	20.08
6	7	5	NE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	97.38
4	7	31	SE ¹ / ₄	159.60
6	7	17	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	3.14
6	8	12	NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	1.10
6	7	8	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	0.92
6	8	12	NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	1.99
6	7, 8	7, 12	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 7; and S ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 12	86.48
6	8	12	NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	1.56
6	7, 8	6, 1	W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ of sec. 6; and E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ of sec. 1	35.82
6	7	5	E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	19.88
6	8	12	NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄	0.29
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	2.5
6	7	8	NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	7.16
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	5.5
6	8	1	SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	1.34
Total				11,349.92."

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 818), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE RESERVATION OF THE SILETZ TRIBE IN THE STATE OF OREGON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 380, S. 817.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 817) to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 817) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 817

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PURPOSE; CLARIFICATION.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to facilitate fee-to-trust applications for the Siletz Tribe within the geographic area specified in the amendment made by this Act.

(b) **CLARIFICATION.**—Except as specifically provided otherwise by this Act or the amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or the amendment made by this Act, shall prioritize for any purpose the claims of any federally recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE SILETZ TRIBE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

Section 7 of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 711e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **TITLE.**—The Secretary may accept title to any additional number of acres of real property located within the boundaries of the original 1855 Siletz Coast Reservation established by Executive order dated November 9, 1855, comprised of land within the political boundaries of Benton, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon, if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by or on behalf of the tribe.

“(B) **TRUST.**—Land to which title is accepted by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe.

“(2) **TREATMENT AS PART OF RESERVATION.**—All real property that is taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be considered and evaluated as an on-reservation acquisition under part 151.10 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

“(B) become part of the reservation of the tribe.

“(3) **PROHIBITION ON GAMING.**—Any real property taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).”.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2016 AS NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 521.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 521) expressing support for the designation of September 2016 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 521) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 7, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

CONGRATULATING THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 349.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 349) congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 349) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 28, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DANIEL J. EVANS OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 571, S. 3028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3028) to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3028) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3028

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act”.

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION AS DANIEL J. EVANS WILDERNESS.

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—Section 101(a) of the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 3961) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking “Olympic Wilderness” and inserting “Daniel J. Evans Wilderness”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Olympic Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2607, H.R. 3931, H.R. 3953, H.R. 4010, H.R. 4425, H.R. 4747, H.R. 4761, H.R. 4777, H.R. 4877, H.R. 4925, H.R. 4975, H.R. 4987, H.R. 5028, and the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration, en bloc.

PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JEANNE AND JULES MANFORD POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 2607) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7802 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights, New York, as the “Jeanne and Jules Manford Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ADAM BROWN UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 3931) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Central Avenue Suite 1A in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, as the “Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FELTON ROGER FUSSELL MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 3953) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4122 Madison Street, Elfers, Florida, as the “Private First Class Felton Roger Fussell Memorial Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ED PASTOR POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4010) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 522 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Ed Pastor Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EUGENE J. MCCARTHY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4425) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 East Powerhouse Road in Collegeville, Minnesota, as the "Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAJOR GREGORY E. BARNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4747) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6691 Church Street in Riverdale, Georgia, as the "Major Gregory E. Barney Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LOUIS VAN IERSEL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4777) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1301 Alabama Avenue in Selma, Alabama as the "Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LCPL GARRETT W. GAMBLE, USMC POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4877) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3130 Grants Lake Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas, as the "LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MICHAEL GARVER OXLEY MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4925) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 West Main Cross Street, in Findlay, Ohio, as the "Michael Garver Oxley Memorial Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CALEB A. NELSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4975) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the

"Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM "KELLY" LACEY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4987) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MARY E. MCCOY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5028) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10721 E Jefferson Ave in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Mary E. McCoy Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 538, S. Res. 539, S. Res. 540, S. Res. 541, S. Res. 542, S. Res. 543, S. Res. 544, S. Res. 545, S. Res. 546, S. Res. 547, and S. Res. 548.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 541

Ms. HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to introduce a resolution to commemorate Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park on their 100th anniversary.

On August 1, 1916, 3 weeks prior to the founding of the National Park Service, Congress established Hawaii National Park, comprised of two sections located on the island of Maui and the island of Hawaii. The two sections of the park were subsequently separated and redesignated as Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The two parks were set aside in perpetuity for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Hawaii and the people of the United States. In the last 100 years, they have served their purpose well. Last year, over 1.2 million people visited Haleakala National Park, while over 1.8 million people visited Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The parks have also proven to be an economic boon to the State of Hawaii. In 2015, visitors to Haleakala National Park spent over \$76 million in surrounding communities, supporting nearly 1,000 jobs.

Visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park spent over \$151 million in areas around the park and supported nearly 2,000 local jobs. However, the importance of Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to the people of the State of Ha-

waii, to the Nation, and globally is much more than economic benefit. The parks serve as invaluable scientific and cultural assets and have been instrumental in preserving some of the most ecologically diverse ecosystems in the world.

For example, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is home to two of the world's most active volcanoes, providing visitors the ability to gain a greater understanding of volcanic and geologic processes. Hawaii's isolation and the substantial number of plant and animal species that are native to Hawaii and found nowhere else in the world have contributed greatly to our understanding of evolutionary biology.

The scientific significance of both Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park was highlighted when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated both parks as biosphere reserves in 1980.

Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala also provide access to substantial cultural and historic resources. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is home to a number of precontact archaeological sites, including Puu Loa, which contains over 23,000 petroglyphs.

However, Hawaii's national parks are not places where culture is discussed in the past tense. Even today, Native Hawaiians come to these parks to renew ties to ancestors, conduct cultural gatherings and rituals, and pass traditions down to the next generation.

Both parks also serve as a refuge for hundreds of native plants and animals, many of which are endangered and threatened. Indeed, Haleakala National Park is home to more endangered species than any other site in the National Park System, including the Hawaiian Silversword, and dozens of endangered Native Hawaiian birds.

For the last century, residents of Hawaii, the United States, and the world have visited Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and gained a greater appreciation for the natural environment, the history of Hawaii, and Native Hawaiian culture. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of these parks, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing August 1, 2016, as "Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Day" and encourage as many people as possible from across the Nation to come to Hawaii to visit these national treasures.

S. RES. 542

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as a member of the Congressional Trade-mark Caucus, I have made it a goal to increase awareness and spark a dialogue about the importance of trademarks. Because this year constitutes the 70th anniversary of the Lanham Act, I would like to join my colleague, Senator COONS, in introducing a resolution

to recognize the Lanham Act and designate July as National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month.

Seventy years ago, the Lanham Act was signed by President Harry Truman to establish remedies for brand owners suffering from trademark infringement and to protect consumers from counterfeit products. It is this very law that has laid the foundation for modern trademark protection and led to a tremendous increase in the use of trademarks.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organization, in 2012, approximately 24 million trademarks were in force around the world. Further, the U.S. Department of Commerce reports that 31 percent of all jobs in the United States are in intellectual property-intensive industries.

Despite the legal framework currently in place to protect against counterfeiting, trademark-related crimes are one of the fastest growing economic problems worldwide. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, manufacturing, trade, and consumption of counterfeit products continues to increase, escalating from \$250 billion in 2008 to \$461 billion in 2013.

Other counterfeiting trends were recently highlighted in a study released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center, GIPC. The study found that China and Hong Kong alone represent 86 percent of the global physical counterfeiting. This translates into \$396.5 billion worth of counterfeit goods each year. This level of counterfeiting activity bears serious economic and health and safety implications, both locally and internationally.

The GIPC also found that the value of seized counterfeit goods by customs in 38 sampled economies totals less than 2.5 percent of the global measure of physical counterfeiting. This suggests that although the efforts of customs authorities yield results, the extent of their success is still “a drop in the bucket.”

Not only are trademark-related crimes growing rapidly, the devastating effects are also far-reaching. Trademark-related crimes impact not only whole industries, but economies as well. The most direct impact of counterfeiting is revenue loss. The GIPC estimates losses to be in the billions for any given industry.

Brand owners are actively responding to this problem. According to a GIPC report, some companies spend as much as \$20 million annually in an attempt to fight counterfeiting of their products. This is money that could have been spent on research and development, business expansion, and innovation.

There are also indirect effects stemming from counterfeit products that cause economic disruption. For example, the presence of counterfeits leads to lowered incentives for innovation,

spiking unemployment rates, and slower economic growth. This is a serious issue for the United States, considering the U.S. Department of Commerce reports intellectual property generates 34 percent of U.S. GDP, two-thirds of U.S. exports, and \$5.8 trillion in U.S. output.

Counterfeits have devastating effects on the health and safety of consumers. For example, there has been a spike in production of fakes that have an immense impact on everyday life—such as airbags, smoke detectors, computer chips, and prescription drugs.

With increased counterfeiting of so many everyday products, the presumption of quality and effectiveness is becoming less certain. Unfortunately, there is an increased possibility of lasting and potentially fatal consequences for consumers' health and safety.

In April, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing entitled, “Counterfeits and Their Impact on Consumer Health and Safety.” This hearing specifically explored how hazardous counterfeit products—like medicines, electronics, automotive, and military parts—can harm consumers.

The hearing panel warned that consumers unknowingly purchase counterfeits. In fact, consumers often pay the same as they would for legitimate goods, but receive potentially unsafe products. For example, consumers are purchasing fake chargers that may explode or medicines that may be manufactured with dangerous or contaminated substances. These types of counterfeits can result in severe injuries, including death.

The hearing panel also discussed the exploitation by counterfeits of e-commerce platforms with a business direct to consumer business model. Cyber commerce, for-profit streaming, and ever-changing technologies have continued to present new challenges in combating counterfeiting activity. They also discussed the changing tactics of counterfeiters, including small package delivery through the mail, which make it difficult for law enforcement to go after these criminals.

Counterfeit products have been found to have ties to terrorism, trafficking, and organized crime groups around the world. According to the GIPC report, Interpol and FBI seizure records suggest that proceeds from counterfeit brake pads and cigarettes have been earmarked for terrorist groups like Hezbollah and al-Qaeda. As the scope of counterfeit products increases, so does the ability of criminal and hostile organizations to fund their illicit and harmful operations.

Increased education and awareness efforts are critical to helping to put a stop to ar counterfeit activity. That is why we are honoring the Lanham Act and designating July as National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness Month. Educating members of Congress, the media, and the public about the dangers of counterfeits and the vital role trademarks play will help protect consumers from con-

fusion and deception in the marketplace. In addition, Congress, Federal agencies and law enforcement, the business community, and consumer groups must all work together so we can keep consumers safe.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as in my capacity as a cochair of the Congressional Trademark Caucus, I will continue to work aggressively to facilitate dialogue, inform consumers, and collaborate with government agencies on trademark-related issues. And I am pleased to work my colleague Senator COONS on this resolution.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, I am proud to cosponsor a resolution designating July 2016 as the “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness” Month in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Lanham Act, which provided the foundation for our modern Federal trademark registration system. Not only are trademarks a source of significant value for companies, but they also play an important role in communicating the authenticity and integrity of products and services to customers, thereby promoting consumer safety. For example, counterfeit batteries, sometimes featuring fake trademarks, have been linked to increased risks of spontaneous fires—a clear safety hazard if that battery is in a consumer product such as a children's toy. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency, seizures related to counterfeit intellectual property increased almost 25 percent between 2014 and 2015. While the government must continue its interception of fake goods at our borders, these numbers and the apparent rise of this problem also call for greater consumer awareness of the risks of buying counterfeit products. By designating this month the “National Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Education and Awareness” Month, I hope to foster such an awareness and the role that intellectual property—here, the trademark system—plays in helping to protect consumers.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 50.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—H.R. 1462

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 1462, which was previously received from the House, be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Tuesday, August 30, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016, THROUGH TUESDAY, SEP- TEMBER 6, 2016

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday,

July 15, 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, July 19, 1 p.m.; Friday, July 22, 1 p.m.; Tuesday, July 26, 10 a.m.; Friday, July 29, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 2, 10 a.m.; Friday, August 5, 7:45 a.m.; Tuesday, August 9, 12:55 p.m.; Friday, August 12, 8 a.m.; Tuesday, August 16, 9 a.m.; Friday, August 19, 3 p.m.; Tuesday, August 23, 4 p.m.; Friday, August 26, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 30, 9 a.m.; and Friday, September 2, 10 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 2, it next convene at 3 p.m., Tuesday, September 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577; finally, that the pending cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:05 p.m., adjourned until Friday, July 15, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DAVID V. BREWER, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

C. PETER MAHURIN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MICHAEL MCWHERTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOE H. RITCH, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHATTIE N. LEVY
MICHELLE L. PLETCHER
LISA G. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ARTHUR J. BILENKER
BRUCE M. CARPENTER
AUBREY J. HENSHAW III
JOHN H. MCLEMORE
RICHARD L. OWENS
INEZ E. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOHN J. BRADY

MICHAEL A. CAMPBELL
SCOTT A. CARLTON
RICHARD F. CHADEK
ROBERT D. DOUGLAS
JOSEPH A. J. FARQUHAR
IAN L. FAWKS
GARY M. JONSON
MICHAEL F. LORICH
LESLIE K. MCKENZIE
CHARLES R. RADMER
ROBERT E. ROSS, JR.
KEVIN R. SCOTT
ELIZABETH A. WERNIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

RICHARD J. BUTALLA
MICHAEL E. COLLINS
KRISTIAN L. DUGGER
MARLEEN M. LAJOIE
DANE E. RODGERS
ARTHUR A. RUSSELL
ROBERT J. STUART
JAMES L. VANVOOREN
JEFFREY T. WILLIAMS
WILLIAM D. YATES
MARK B. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER B. AASGAARD
GREGORY N. GEISSINGER
JOHN J. KNIGHT, JR.
JEROME M. MOLSTAD
DARIN J. MONGEON
MICHAEL E. MYSLIENSKI
THOMAS E. PAGENKOPF
GUSTAV T. RIEMER
WILLIAM A. SOCRATES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PAUL V. RAHM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL A. DEAN
ROBERT L. GROFF
MICHAEL G. KAUFFMAN
DANIEL B. NEFF
MARK O. WORLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JONNIE L. BAILEY
ROGER R. BOUTIN III
BARBARA J. BRADBURN
LEEANN M. CAPACE
MICHAEL D. CRUM
ANGEL L. CRUZMALAVE
CHARLES A. DARLING
TIMOTHY W. DAYTON
JAMES L. GLASS
BARBARA J. GREEN
KIETH A. HAND
VICKI H. HATHORN
ELIZABETH R. HOUGLANADKINS
LATRENCIA T. JOHNSON
LAURA LANEWILLIAMS
CHARLES T. LENT
CHRISTINA M. LYERLA
DEBORAH A. MAHARGARCIA
TERESA MALEY
JUNE B. MCGHEE
MARY G. MUELLER
TAMMIE E. OEMKE
HEIDI L. OTIS
MARK H. PARSONS
DAVID M. PLUMMER
RITA M. F. POCE
BRIAN D. POYNOR
LEWIS T. ROGERS
MARK W. SCHIERENBECK
MARK E. SCOTT
VANESSA L. SPIVEYBURKE
JOYCE A. TORIANO
BARBARA F. WALL
SUZANNE M. WILSON
INEZ B. WITHERS
ILONA L. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GORDON B. CHIU
WING DJAYA
COLLEEN S. JENSON
MARC R. JOHNSON
MATTHEW C. KHUN
KATHERINE H. MARTIN
ANHSTEVE H. NGUYEN
JACQUELINE I. OJIMBA

SCOTT B. SALANCY
RENE E. SCOTT
PAUL A. VIATOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE
ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SCOTT B. ARMEN
REONO BERTAGNOLLI
WILLIAMS Q. BRITTON
WARD M. BROWN
JAMES M. BRUMIT
GARY E. CAPLAN
JOHN Y. CHA
HOWARD L. CURLIN
JAMES J. DIMAIO
BILL M. DUDA
RAYMOND T. FOSTER
BRETT A. FREEDMAN
MATTHEW B. GOODWIN
JAMES I. HARDING
RICHARD J. HARRISON
JILL C. HASLING
CHRISTOPHER H. HOYT
RAMALAH INDUDHARA
JOSEPH P. JOHNSON
GORDON J. KINZLER
JOHN T. KOLISNYK
BRIAN A. KRAKOVER
MICHAEL T. LAKE
JORGE I. LOPEZ
RICHARD M. LUCCHESI
DAVID E. MARCOZZI
BRETT D. MCGEEVER
VINCENT L. MOSS
ELAINE M. MUNITZ
TAM Q. NGUYEN
LISA J. OLSEN
RAUL G. PALACIOS
FRANCISCO J. PEREZRIVERA
NANCY Q. PETERSMEYER
VALENS M. PLUMMER
ERIC A. RUEBKE
SUSAN SAVELL
ALFRED J. SCHLORKE
MATTHEW R. SMOLIN
CHRISTOFER A. STRODE

ANTHONY SULLIVAN
SENEN TORRESVAZQUEZ
KIEN C. N. TRAN
ROBERT D. WALKUP
LANCE W. WEAGANT
MICHAEL B. YAFFE
JON S. YAMAGUCHI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE
ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

THAD J. COLLARD
JOHN A. FELTHOUS
KEITH A. JONES
JACQUELINE R. KROGULSKI
RUSSELL P. REITER
JANETTE RIVERALOEPEZ
JOHN C. ROCKWELL
ELLEN M. SHANNONBALL
JACINTA H. SHOWERS
CARLOS TAMEZ
BRAD R. WENSTRUP
DANIEL R. WILBORN
MICHAEL L. YOST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE
ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANN M. B. HALL
DAVID W. ROSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE
ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GARRY E. ONEAL
CRISTOPHER A. YOUNG

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate July 14, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JULIUS LLOYD HORWICH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THOMAS F. SCOTT DARLING, III, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

BLAIR ANDERSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANNE HALL, OF MAINE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

LAWRENCE ROBERT SILVERMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

CAROL Z. PEREZ, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

GEOFFREY R. PYATT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE.

DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

MARIE L. YOVANOVITCH, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO UKRAINE.